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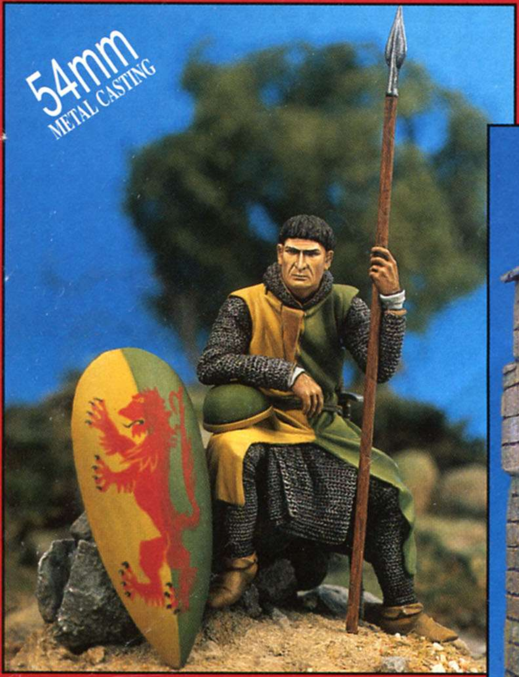
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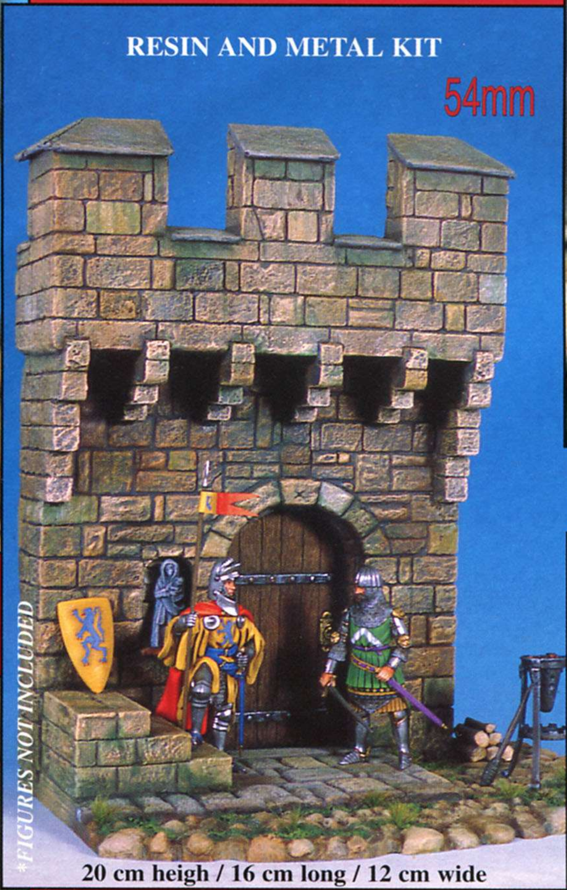
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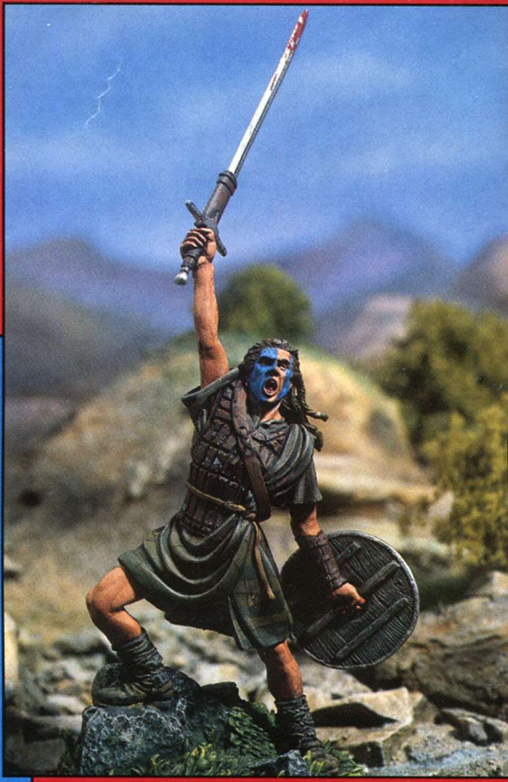

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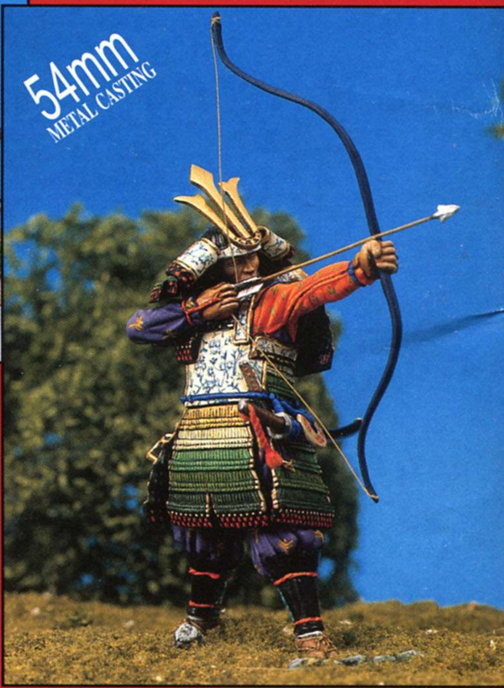
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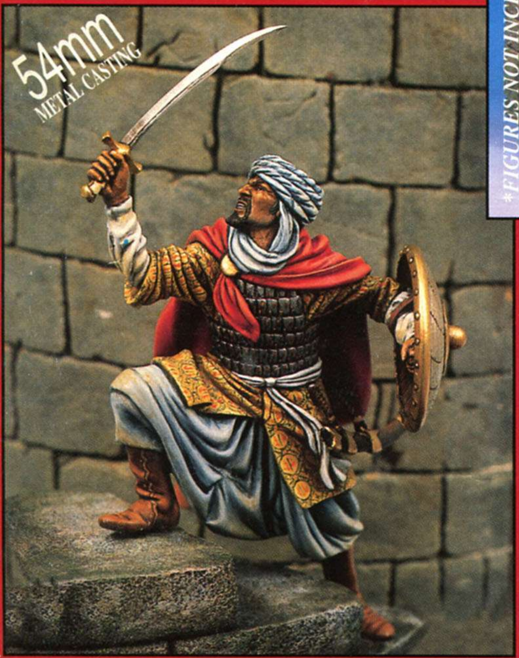
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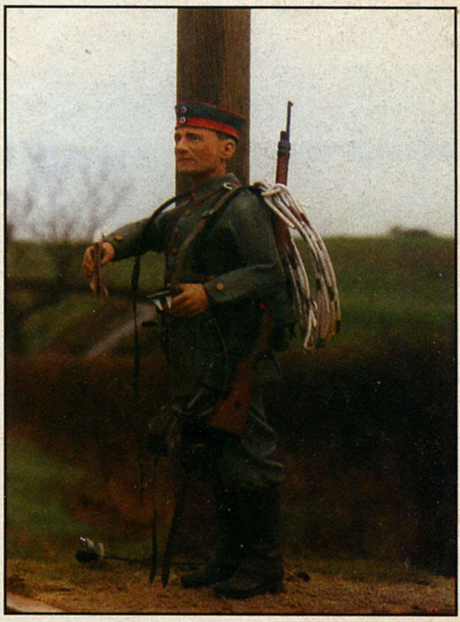

Did somebody call? A 120mm Verlinden Productions' figure conversion of a German WWI telephone linesman begins on page 24.

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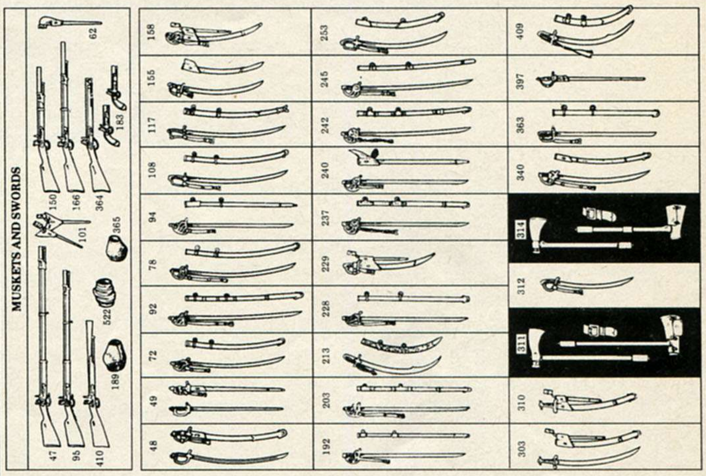

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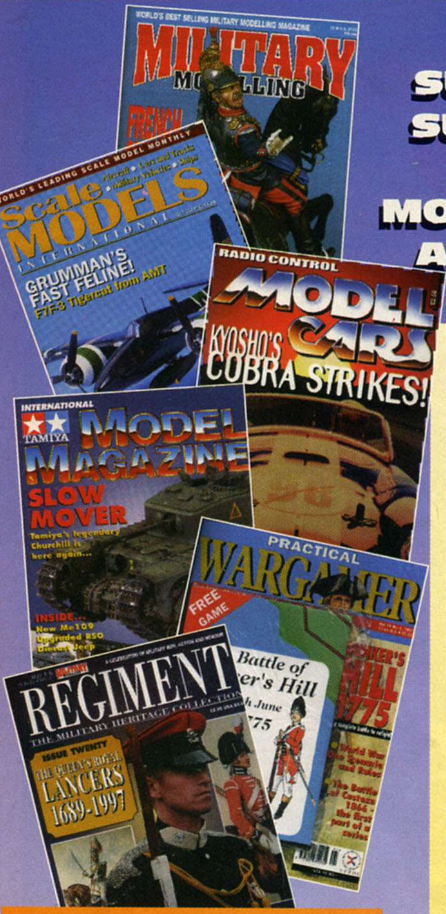
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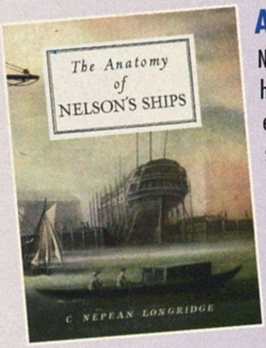
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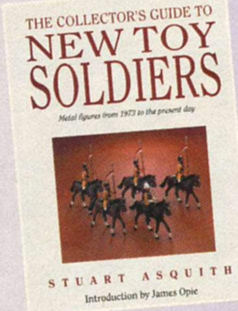
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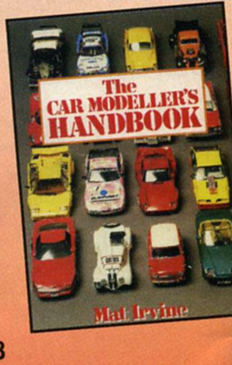
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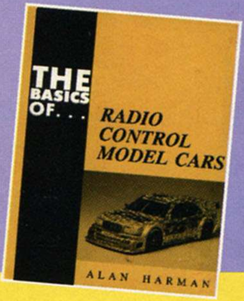

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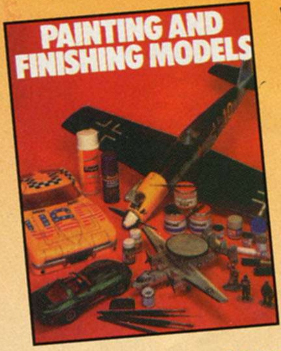

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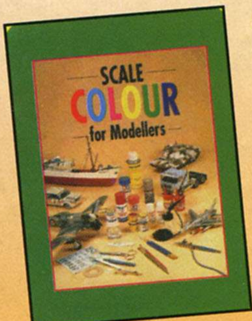

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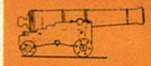

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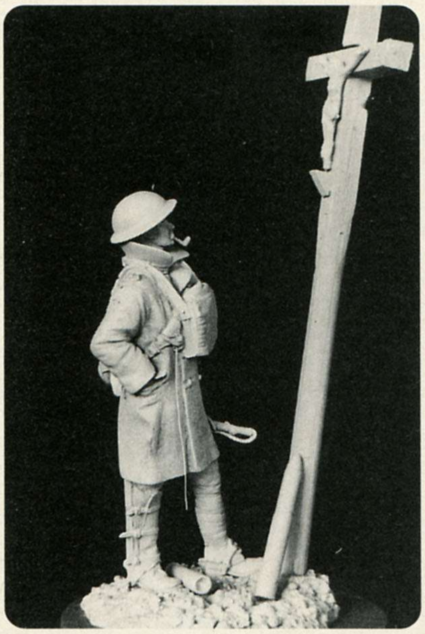

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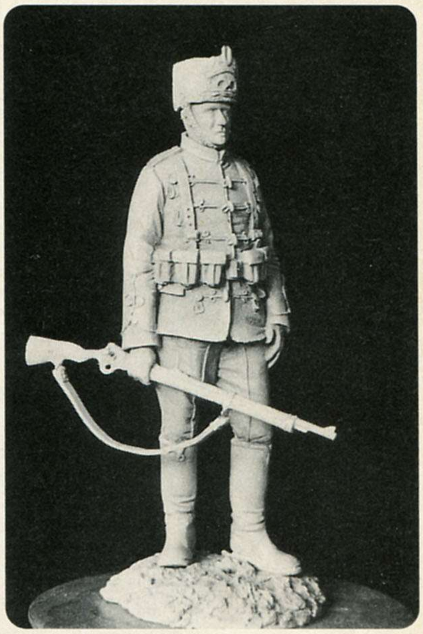

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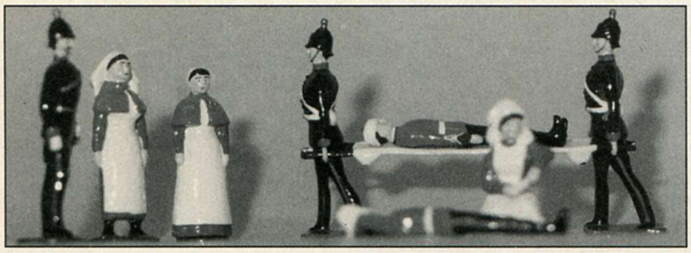

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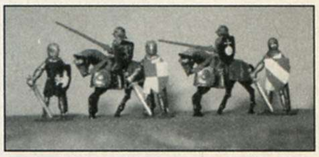

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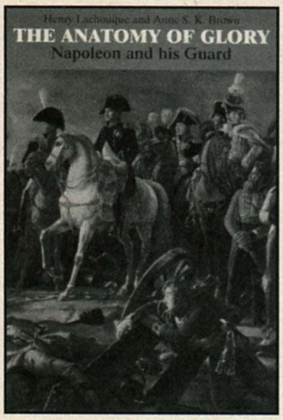

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Reach us on 0181 409 0267 (Ian - for London/Surrey) and 01634 314140 (Terry - for Kent) and have a chat. Be warned: If you sign up you will visit amazing places, make incredible new friends, and have a great time in *1997!*

Kulmbach 1997

Every two years a show that is a Mecca for Flat figure enthusiasts is held in Kulmbach in Franconia which is situated in upper Bavaria. It has always been a wonderful venue for flat figure devotees and visitors come from all parts of the world, although, understandably, the majority are Germans. The town is ideal for the event with many small hotels there and in the surrounding countryside.

The castle of Plassenburg dominates this very attractive Bavarian town, which is well known throughout Germany for its many breweries and fine beers, a fact usually appreciated by the model soldier enthusiasts. For a number of years now the Kulmbach show has also catered for round figures of all sizes. In recent years the *Zinnfigurenbörse* has been held in a beer tent in the market square, and if you have not been fortunate enough to visit a German beer tent then you can have no idea of the size.

The competitions in 1997 will be held 8th-10th August in the Plassenburg Castle, which also houses the Flat Figure Museum, and what a venue it will be for the competitions away from the hubbub and activity of the *Börse.* This year, also for the first time, the competition will be sponsored by *Modellfan* magazine under the guidance of its dynamic editor Uwe Lacina. The new competitions, which cater for both round and flats, follow very much the lines of those at Euro Militaire except all figures are catered for, and not as at Euro where, being a 'Militaire', most classes are military only. There is no special class for juniors, however, and they may enter any of the 16 disciplines, the only stipulation being that they must state their age.

Any modellers who would like a copy of the rules translated into English can obtain them from Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ, who will send them on receipt of a stamped self addressed envelope.

By car it is an easy journey to Kulmbach with motorways the whole way, except for the last few miles, and manageable in a long hard day of driving. Although to be honest, when making the journey in the past, it has usually taken two leisurely days to travel there, and one to get back.

Crown Imperial

The Crown Imperial Society was formed in 1973 to study the history, traditions and regalia of the Forces of the Crown and other insignia. The Society's journal is circulated four times a year and there are monthly meetings in London and Strensall, Yorkshire. Apply for membership to The Publicity Officer, Crown Imperial, 37 Wolsey Close, Southall, Middlesex UB2 4NQ.

BFFS Annual Meeting

There will be an opportunity to see a display of some of the finest painted flat figures anywhere in the world when the British Flat Figure Society hold their annual meeting on Sunday 8th June at Mereway Upper School, Mereway Road (just off the A45), Northampton, from 11am to 4.30pm, admission £1. As well as the display of figures - and the theme for this year's special display is 'Rest and Recreation' - there will be opportunities to purchase figures and other items connected with the hobby. Amongst the trade stands will be the three British editors of flat figures and there will be the usual, and very popular, 'bring and buy' stall. Modellers will be giving practical demonstrations of their skills and tea and coffee will be available throughout the day. There are several pubs in the neighbourhood for those requiring some thing a little stronger. Further details from the Hon. Sec, Michael Creese, tel: 01473 252719.

The Military Heraldry Society

The Military Heraldry Society was formed in 1951 to enable collectors and others interested in cloth formation signs to get together to exchange information and material. The scope of the Society, which has a world-wide membership, includes formation signs (shoulder sleeve insignia), shoulder titles, regimental and unit flashes and similar cloth items of all armed forces.

Activities include regular meetings, library service, query answering service, displays and exchanges. Four journals are published each year. Apply for membership to The Publicity Officer, Military Heraldry Society, 37 Wolsey Close, Southall, Middlesex, England UB2 4NQ.

Dragoon '97

The Liverpool Wargames Association are staging "Dragoon '97" on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th July at The Grand Hall, The Colonnades, The Albert Dock Complex in Liverpool. Anyone who requires further details can contact Ian Sanderson, tel: 0151 708 5152 day or 0151 489 3476 evenings.

Re-enactors Wanted!

A society dedicated to re-enacting the War of 1812 in North America is looking for genuine enthusiasts. Their aim is to concentrate on small scale skirmishes and living history, with the emphasis on quality, not quantity. Mr. Madison's War is an ideal opportunity for those interested in the Napoleonic period, but tired of large scale battles where Cavalry get all the glory! Enquiries should be addressed to: Allan Jones, 7 Arcadia Way, Trevethin, Pontypool, Gwent, Wales NP4 8DX. Tel: 01495 750479.

Hobby Militaire '97

The Ontario Model Soldier Society present Hobby Militaire '97, which takes place on 3rd May at 213 Royal Canadian Legion, 3326 Bloor St West (at Islington), Toronto, Ontario, Canada, at 6pm. This will include militaria models, toy figures, displays, competitions and a lot more. For further information please contact Russ Davis, 7 Sir Lancelot Court, Bolton, Ontario, Canada L0P 1A0. Tel: 905 857 6266.

Indian Military Historical Society

The Indian Military Historical Society was formed in 1983 to bring together those interested in the military history of the Indian Sub-Continent and to encourage research and the exchange of information. Four journals are published each year. These contain articles on military history, medals, insignia and other related subjects. Other armed forces and police are also covered. Apply for membership to The Publicity Officer, I.M.H.S., 37 Wolsey Close, Southall, Middlesex UB2 4NQ.

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Other events are: 23rd to 26th May - Wheels, Louth. Americana weekend. Battles on Sunday and Monday. Reg. fee £2; 27th to 29th June - Stanford Hall. Stanford campaign weekend. Reg. fee £5; 11th to 13th July - Mansfield Mardi Gras. Battles on Saturday and Sunday. Reg. fee £2; 18th to 20th July - Huddersfield Balloon Festival. Reg. fee £2. 22nd to 25th August - Margham Park, Port Talbot, S. Wales. Stately home. Battles Sunday and Monday. Reg. fee £2.

For further details write to PO Box 52, Brighouse, W. Yorkshire HD6 1JQ, or on the internet URL "http/ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/mikebussey-homepageh.t.m"

MILITARY MODELLING

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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 27 No.7 will be published 16th May 1997

Military Modelling is now published every four weeks and throughout this year there will be an extra SIX copies of your favourite magazine to look out for. Keep an eye on this 'NEXT ISSUE' panel in each magazine for the publication date of the next one in line.

Your future copies of **Military Modelling** will, henceforth, be identified by an issue and volume number rather than by month and year.

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- **Swimming Tank**
  Building the Russian T-40 amphibious AFV.
- **John Company's Dress**
  Uniforms of the East India Company's Navy.
- **RTV Rubber**
  Making moulds for casting figures at home.
- **Cuirassier Trumpeter**
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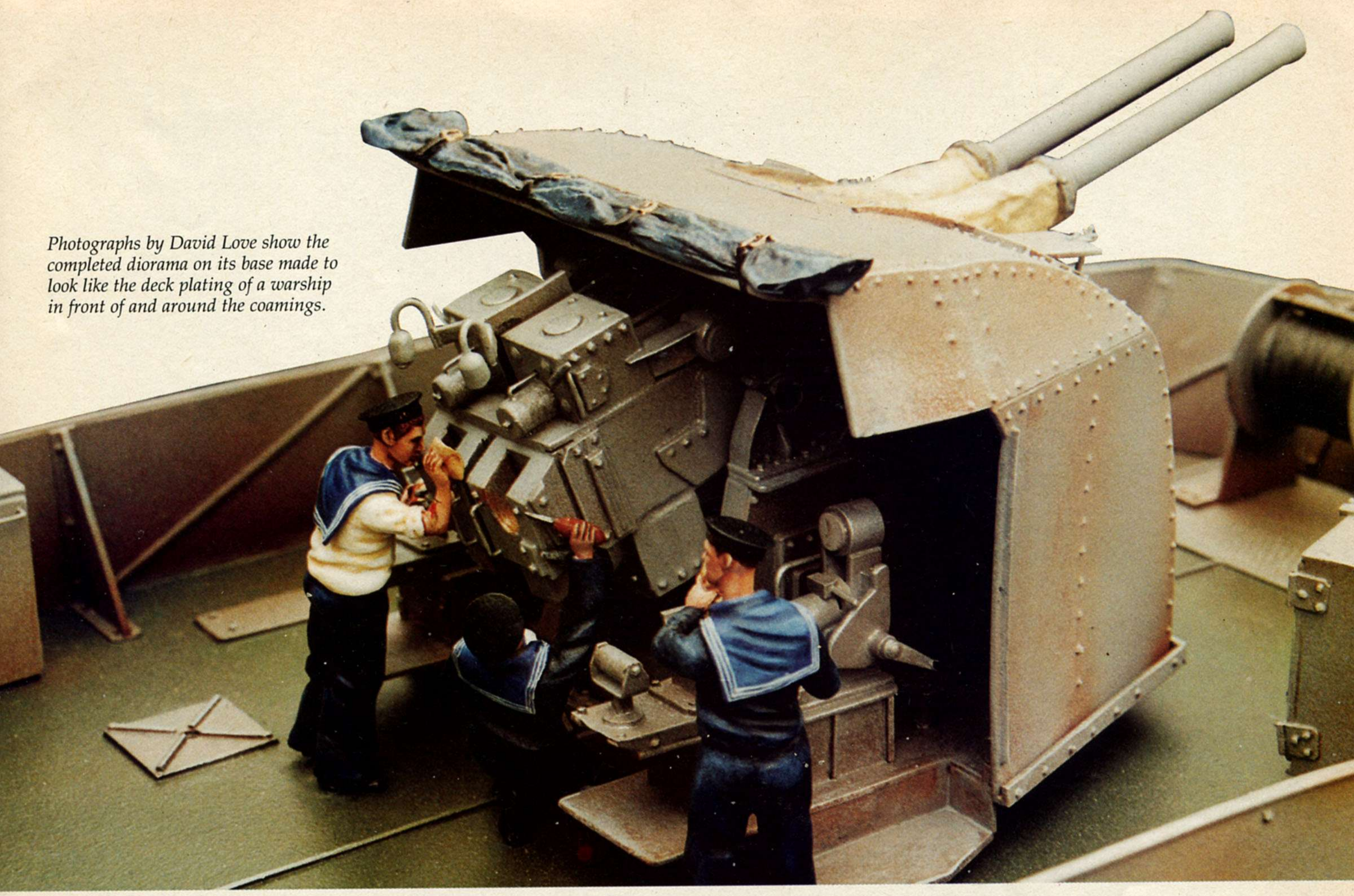


Photographs by David Love show the completed diorama on its base made to look like the deck plating of a warship in front of and around the coamings.

Cleaning up 'A' Gun

Norman Abbey and David Love relate how the building of a diorama was inspired by actual events from WWII

Robert Love, David's father, had been a gun layer aboard HMS *Eskimo*, a Tribal class Destroyer during WWII and the tales of "action stations!" ... The stink of cordite, the noise of discharge, and the clatter of shrapnel on the housing filled many quiet evenings in the Love household.'

The inspiration for this particular model was based on David's memories of his dad's stories and from the pages of the first ***Military Modelling Annual*** published in 1974. The article in question was entitled HMS *Wild Goose* by John Lambert, a most comprehensive account of this Royal Navy sloop, accompanied by photographs, line drawings and scale plans, both of the ship and of greater interest to us, scale plans of-a twin 4-inch Mark XIX gun mounting. It can indeed be most rewarding and refreshing to browse through old copies of ***Mil Mod***

This particular weapons system was universally installed on a variety of ships, from the mighty, but ill-fated HMS *Hood* to the humble sloop -in this case the *Black Swan* class. It fulfilled a dual purpose function, giving excellent accounts in anti aircraft and bombardment roles. it was the main armament of destroyers, frigates and escorts and was the secondary armament of most classes of cruisers. Much has been written about the gun mounting and I would commend the reader to John Lambert's article for more detail.

The Model

It was decided to model the mounting in a relaxed environment as the initial plan to show it 'closed up' for action would have entailed the loss of four of the gun crew inside the gun shield and the covering up of much of the detail. It was also considered to be a bit more interesting to show ratings doing a 'bit of bull' rather than the clichéd - 'rating holding shell loading' - 'rating opening breech' - 'rating setting fuse' ... and so on. (Thinking about it, it just might be interesting to show a gun like this at action stations! There were many 4-inch gun mounts without gun shields, maybe a project for later?) However, we digress.

The setting was the forward deck section, with various ready-use lockers and a winch for trawling the paravane. The idea was to try to get enough detail to surround the main component of the diorama to ensure we didn't end up with what could very easily become an engineering model. The whole was brought to life by the inclusion of three ABs,(Able Bodied Seamen) descaling, polishing and generally skiving - or 'loafing' as it's known in the Navy.

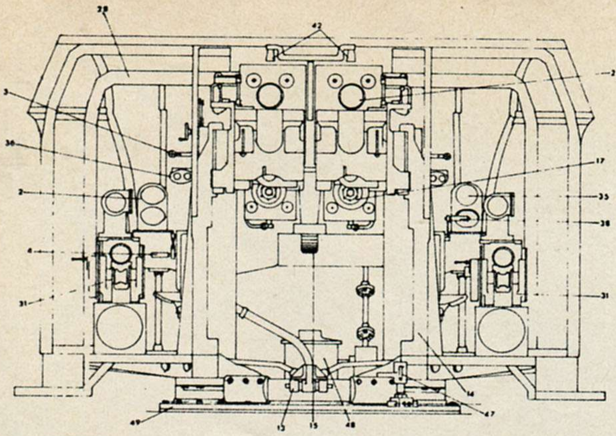
The guns, mountings and setting had to be completely scratch built, hence the need for scale plans. The ABs were conversions from the Airfix Multipose range. The actual 'scratch building' of the gun and position is not as difficult as it sounds, however, it's made from commercially available plastic card sheet and tube. This type of 'precision modelling' requires a keen eye for accuracy and decent reference material. Construction techniques are quite standard, utilising methods which have been discussed many times in ***Mil Mod.***

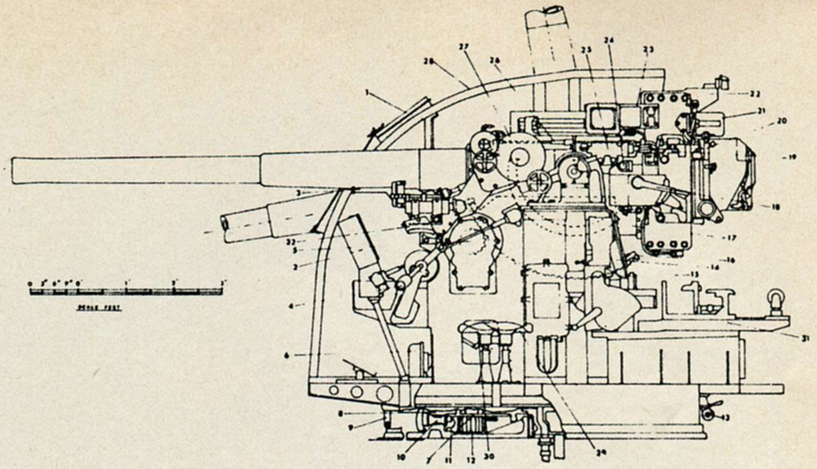
Tools and materials

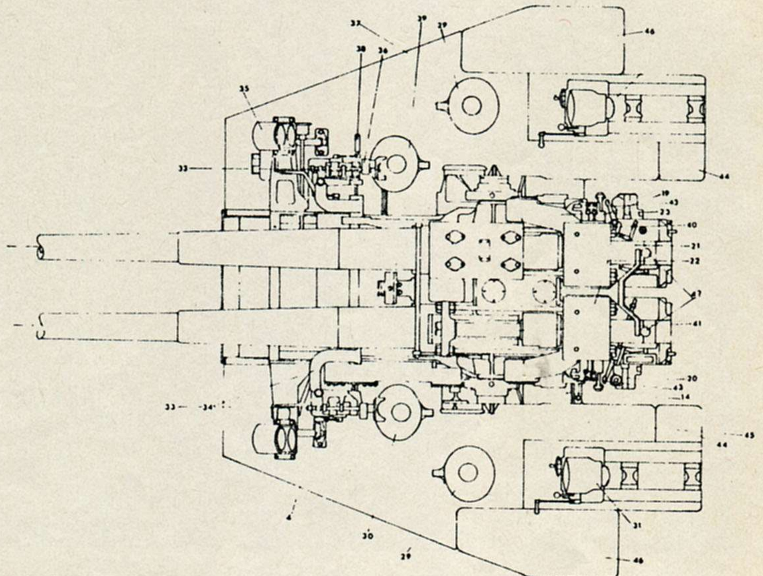
The only tools necessary are a quality scalpel and rule, good steel straight edge and, of paramount importance, Mek Pak or Plastic Weld liquid cement. Steer clear of the cheaper 'oily' brands, they do the job, but take longer to set and risk surface damage of the plastic card. There is an amazing array of tubes, sections and strip plastic available - don't be put off by the material being ABS, as good quality liquid cement will stick it. Polystyrene is usually only sold in sheet, strip, square, round or tubes whereas ABS is available in angles, 'I' sections, 'H' sections, 'Ts' and 'Cs' in a wide selection of sizes. If you have problems finding the stuff - search out a good railway modelling shop, it's particularly used by railway and architectural modellers.

Rivets

An operation David has developed is the production of scale appearance rivets; the important word here being 'appearance'. It would be impossible to represent rivets to exact scale, the secret for the best effect is to ensure that the line of rivets is *dead straight*. This is not too difficult and can be achieved simply by drawing a line on the plate and positioning the 'rivets' on to it. ▶







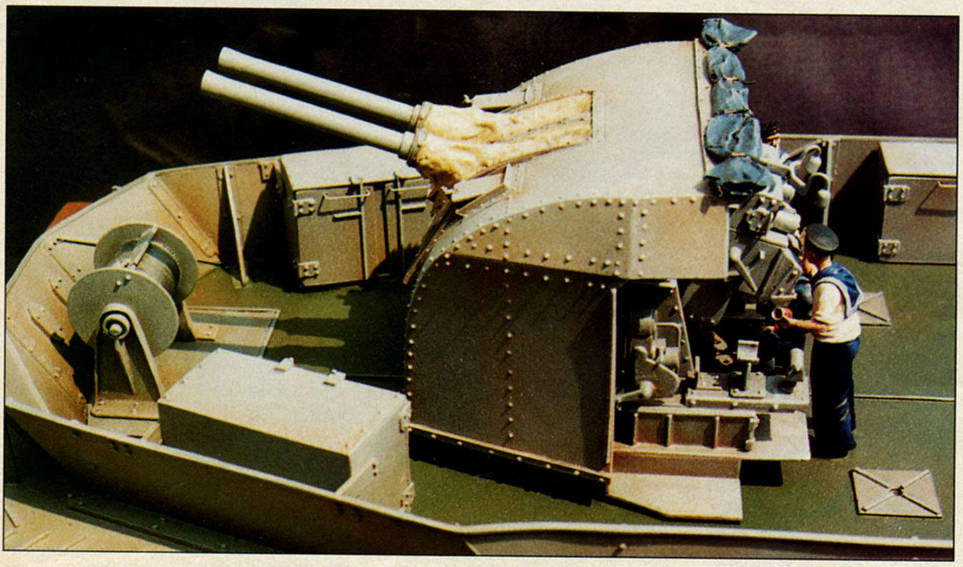
KEY TO TWIN 4" Mk. XIX GUN MOUNTING

1 Extended sight ports.
2 Elevating receiver.
3 Barrage sight.
4 Elevating handles. 1 turn elevates gun 3°.
5 Elevating pinion.
6 "Evershed" bearing.
7 Training receiver gear and pinion.
8 Top racer plate.
9 Safety firing gear.
10 Training rollers.
11 Training rack.
12 Training pinion.
13 Hydraulic training buffer.
14 Carriage.
15 Elevating arc.
16 Buffer stops.
17 Recoil cylinder.
18 Semi-automatic gear.
19 Interceptor.
20 Breech mechanism lever.
21 Recuperator cylinder.
22 Balance ring.
23 Compensating tank. (Recoil cylinder.)
24 Rounds fired counter.
25 Intensifier.
26 Safety firing gear.
27 Sight arc.
28 Spray shield.
29 Seat for Fuse setter.
30 Seat for gun layer.
31 Mk. II fuse setting machine.
32 Star shell spirit level.
33 Sight line and Centre line of Aldis telescope.
34 Sight arm.
35 Training receiver.
36 Sights.
37 Platform.
38 Training handle. 1 turn moves gun mounting 4.
39 Trainers seat.
40 Recuperator ram guard.
41 Recuperator ram.
42 Loading lamp.
43 Hand operated firing gear.
44 Extended platform.
45 Junction box.
46 Extended lower platform.
47 Housing stop.
48 Training worm gear box.
49 Lower racer base plate.

DIMENSIONS OF 4" Mk. XIX.

Overall weight of mounting (approx.): 18.6 tons
Maximum lift without shield and baseplate: 16.4 tons
Maximum width: 12ft 3in
Muzzle sweep: 12ft 3in
Overall height: 8ft 6in
Maximum elevation: 80 degrees
Maximum depression: −10 degrees
Maximum training arc: 670 degrees
Maximum training and elevating speed: 20 degrees per second
Muzzle velocity (new gun): 2650ft per second
Design pressure: 20.5 tons per sq in
Weight of projectile: 35lb
Maximum range (at 42 degrees elevation): 19,400 yds (over 10 miles)
Maximum height (approx.) 41,250ft
Maximum upward lift (front of baseplate): 26.6 tons
Maximum downward thrust (at rear of baseplate): 55.5 tons

The drawing of the Twin 4" Mark XIX Gun Mounting that started it all appeared on page 94 in the very first ***Military Modelling Annual*** *of 1974. The article on the Royal Navy sloop HMS Wild Goose by John Lambert plus stories from WWII Navy days from David Love's father provided the inspiration for the diorama.*



The method David uses to make and fix scale rivets is to stretch some sprue to approx. 0.5mm thickness; this is then very carefully cut to approx. 0.5mm lengths, only 20 or 30 'rivets' are cut at once because they easily get lost on the cutting mat.

The 'rivets' can then be fixed which is done by picking up the individual 'rivet' with the end of a soft, well-pointed brush (say a 00) which has been dipped into the bottle of liquid cement - you have to practice this bit because you don't want the brush to be too wet, but then too little liquid cement on the brush will not work either. Working very quickly the point of the brush should then be touched onto the line drawn on the plate and with a little twist the rivet will transfer onto the plate. If you don't hit the line first time, you can pick up a little more cement and 'move' the rivet around, with the point of the brush - don't overdo this though, as you may end up with no plating, and no 'rivet!' Continue for about 10 'rivets', spacing as you go - it is necessary to use your judgement on the distance between 'rivets' unless, of course, your research has shown actual or unique sizes and spaces.

The next bit needs a little practice, but it is very worthwhile; go back to the first 'rivet' and with the wet point of the brush wash a little cement over the tiny flat top and sharp edges of what is in affect still a minute piece of stretched sprue. Done very quickly the stretched sprue will soften and the corners will become rounded. As the cement dries the tiny piece of sprue takes on a domed aspect and becomes a fair representation of a round head rivet.

Figures and finishing

The three ABs were straightforward conversions from Airfix Multipose WWII Marines with heads in all cases by Hornet. 'Bell bottoms' and neck squares (square rig uniform) were formed in Milliput and the figures were painted in oils over Humbrol matt enamel undercoats.

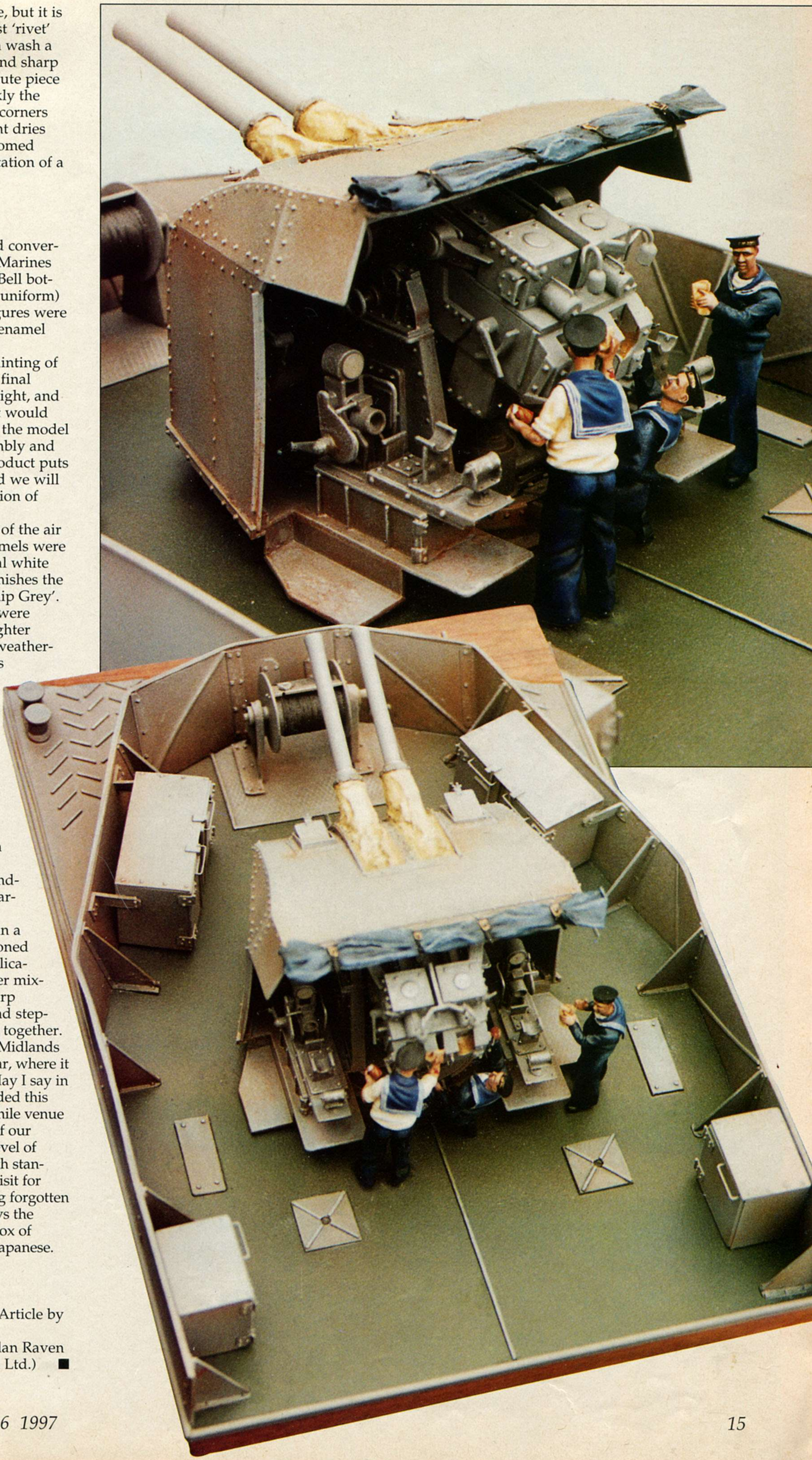
My part in the project was the painting of the various sub-assemblies and the final assembly and finishing. With hindsight, and to further a more complete article it would have been far better to have shown the model in it's various stages of build, assembly and painting. Hopefully the finished product puts across the level of detail built in and we will be following the stages of construction of other projects with pictures.

With the wealth of detail the use of the air brush was vital. Humbrol matt enamels were used throughout and after the initial white undercoating and checking for blemishes the parts were sprayed in mid 'Battleship Grey'.

The Individual parts, when dry, were again air-brushed with darker or lighter greys dependent upon usage and 'weathering'. Actively engaged parts such as the breech block slides, recuperator rods and levers were retouched with hand-brushed light metallic brass, steel and gunmetal. Masking was very difficult and, in future, the decking should be painted prior to application of side plates, brackets, etc. with minor touching up all that should be required.

An important addition to any sea going vessel is of course rust as all ships carry it. It's just a matter of finding a level of application - so the warship does not end up looking like a 'tramp steamer'. Rust was applied in a series of misted coats of brick red toned down with a little grey. A final application of aluminium and chrome silver mixture was dry-brushed across all sharp edges, especially the tread plates and stepping areas brought the whole thing together.

We entered the model at the East Midlands Model Show held at Hinkley last year, where it gained a first in the diorama class. May I say in passing to those who have not attended this show that it really is a most worthwhile venue for the ardent modeller. All classes of our hobby are well catered for and the level of competency and skill is of a very high standard. The trade stands are worth a visit for themselves alone; many of those long forgotten plastic kits appear and there is always the chance to pick up the odd 'golden' box of Multipose - even Afrika Korps and Japanese.



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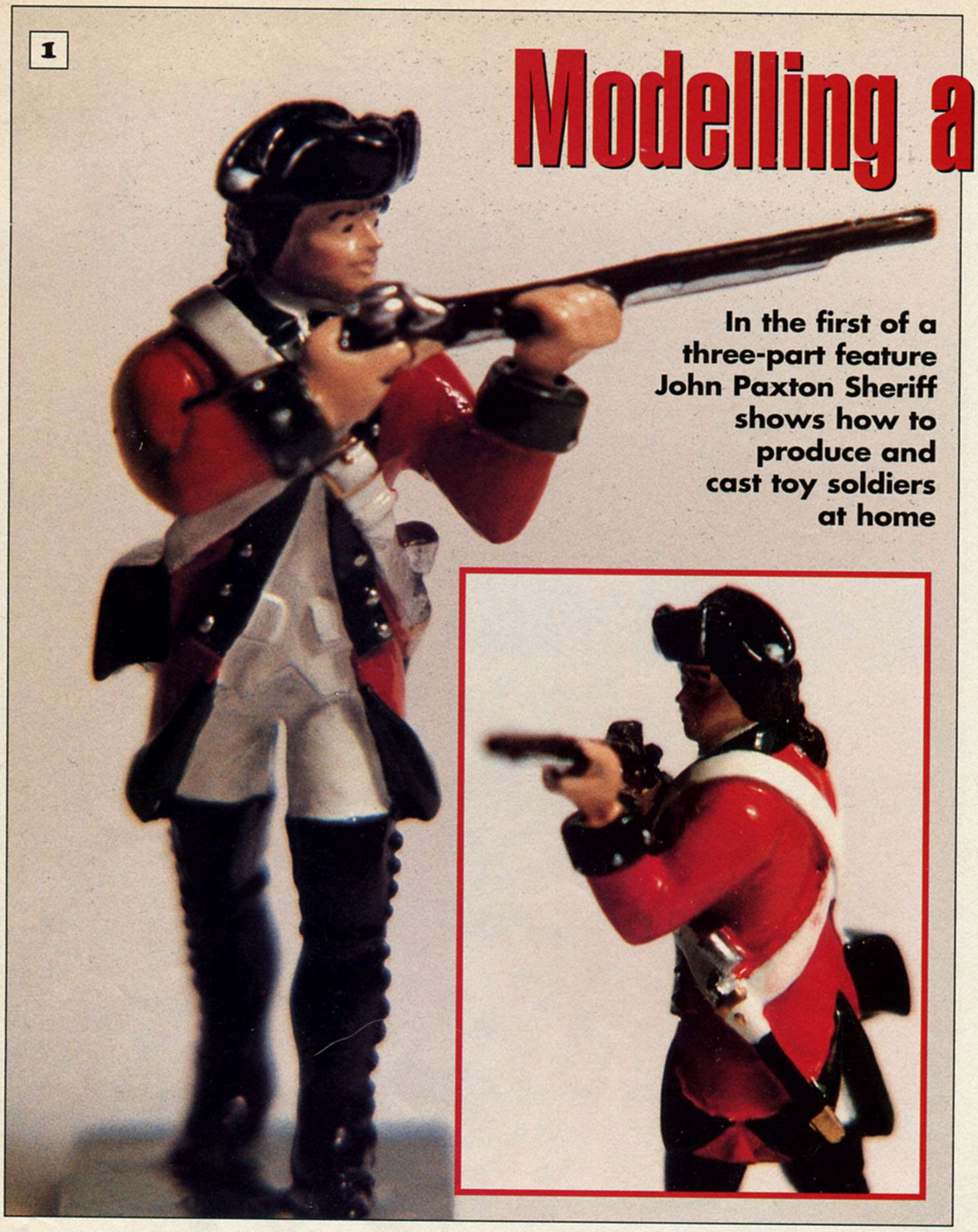
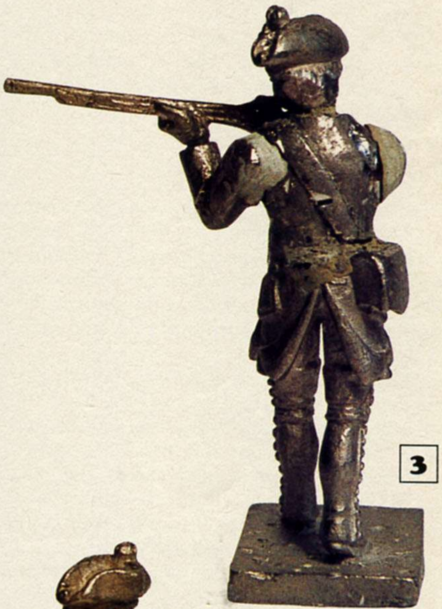
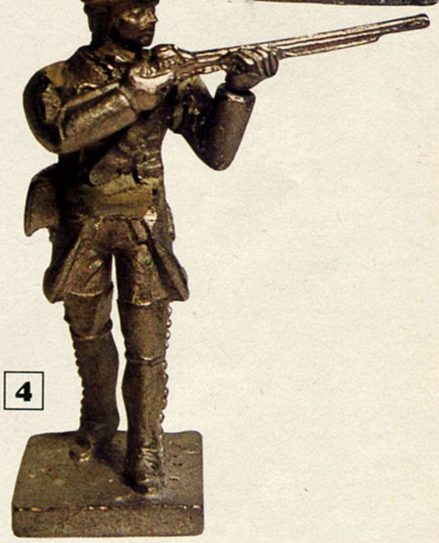
Military Modelling Annual 1974. - Article by John Lambert on HMS *Wild Goose*.
British Cruisers of World War 2 by Alan Raven and John Roberts (Lionel Leventhal Ltd.) ■

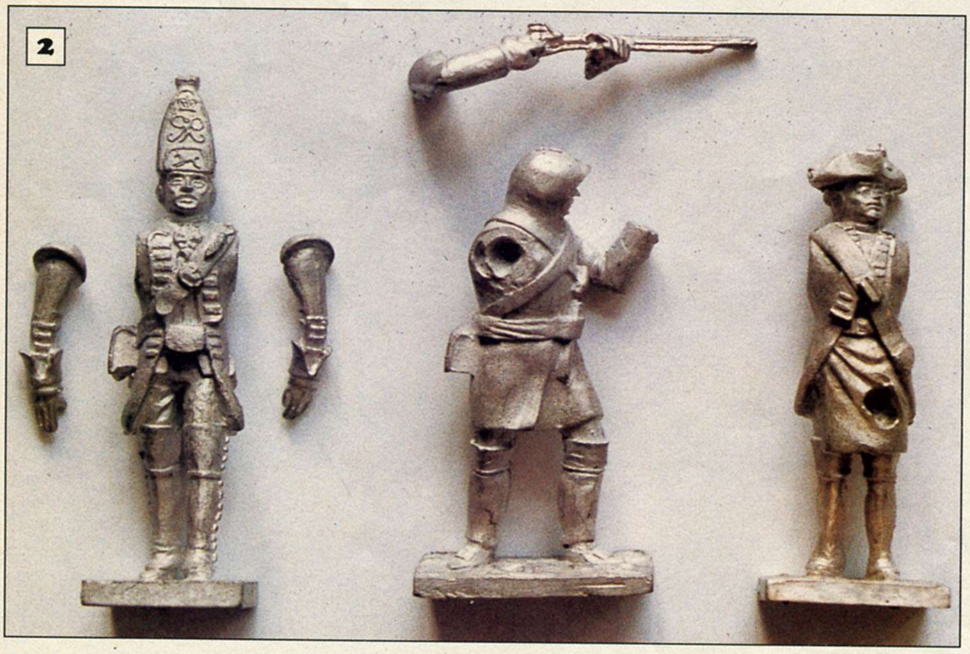
Modelling a Toy Soldier

In the first of a three-part feature John Paxton Sheriff shows how to produce and cast toy soldiers at home









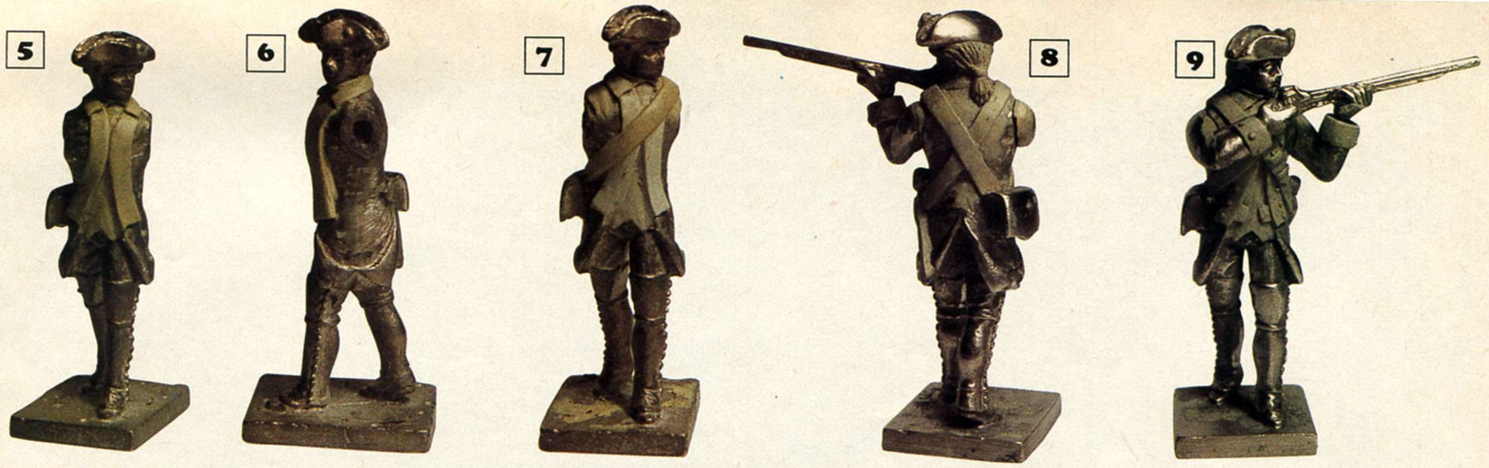
1. The completed toy soldier - British 5th Foot c.1775. 2. Three castings were used for the conversion. Left to right: British grenadier 1752; American soldier in Canadian winter dress 1778; Hesse Cassel drummer c.1777. 3. Front view of the new figure at an early stage with arms fitted temporarily to check the stance. 4. Rear view shows the Milliput at shoulders and waist.

Like all craft hobbies, modelling military figures attracts people to whom manual skill comes as second nature, and others who need an instruction manual to open a box of tissues.

This situation is a little unfair, because while the skilled enthusiast is amassing a dazzling collection of figures with the minimum of effort, lesser mortals are struggling to produce three or four that look good only when viewed from a certain angle, in a dim light.

This series of three articles sets out to redress the balance. Although professional makers of 54mm toy soldiers might argue the point, toy soldiers usually take less skill to make than connoisseur figures. And because these small, gloss painted figures are usually seen en masse, the basic toy soldier - the casting - can itself be less sophisticated, and can be assembled safe in the knowledge that shiny paint, bright colours and a position in the ranks are going to make every sow's ear look like a silk purse.

In these three articles I will deal with modelling, making a mould, then casting and painting. I will begin with a reasonably simple conversion.



5. The jacket turnbacks, collar and waistcoat have been roughly formed from Milliput. ***6.*** *Side view of the figure showing the additions.* ***7.*** *A step further with the jacket turnbacks shaped and smoothed, and the first crossbelt added.* ***8.*** *Rear view of the completed conversion. The hair is modelled looser than the regulation queue.* ***9.*** *The completed conversion with pockets added to the waistcoat, a buckle and slide to the waistbelt over the right shoulder and buttons to the jacket turnbacks and cuffs.*

Task

I thought it would be an interesting exercise to use bits and pieces from a number of castings to arrive at a chosen figure. Redcoats have always fascinated me, so I decided on a British soldier from around 1775 - a private of the 5th Foot. Because the aim is simplicity, I plumped for a 'hat man' rather than a grenadier, and cut back on button loops and tape to make the final painting that much easier.

This is not as drastic as it sounds. During the American Revolution - and all the other wars of long ago - uniforms were usually in tatters after the first skirmish, boots missing not long after that, and a soldier quickly resorted to dressing in what he could beg, borrow or steal.

Tools and materials

My three basic figures were 54mm Magna Carta toy soldier castings. I retained the body and legs of a 1752 mitre-cap grenadier; used the left arm, and right arm with cast-on musket, from an American soldier in Canadian winter dress, c.1778; and I used the head from a Hesse Cassel drummer of the same period.

The tools needed were basic. Craft knives, scalpels (Swann-Morton with a number 15 blade), a rough file and one or two smaller needle files, emery cloth and wet-and-dry paper, wire wool - and Milliput.

Method

The grenadier had been modelled in an approximation of a parade ground stance, and I wanted to get away from that. A figure standing firing his musket always looks lively and attractive, so as a start to achieving that stance I took the headless and armless grenadier torso and cut completely through it at the waist. I then drilled a hole up into the top half and down into the lower half, fitted a wire pin and some mixed Milliput, and reassembled the torso with the top half turned fractionally to the left.

Again, drilling holes and using a metal pin and Milliput, I now fitted the drummer's head to the modified grenadier torso, turning it much more sharply to the left. The position was checked far accuracy by holding the right arm and musket in position. Finally, both left and right arms were fitted to the torso. This time, because for casting purposes the arms had to be removable, a different technique was used.

The torso already had quite large holes drilled in the shoulders -makeshift sockets. Before proceeding, the whole of the shoulder area -around and inside those sockets - was painted with a thin coating of Vaseline. Then blobs of Milliput were fixed firmly to the corresponding shoulder area of each arm (where no Vaseline had been applied), and the arms pressed into position.

This was a bit hit and miss. Just enough Milliput had to be applied to the arms so that, when they were pressed into position, the arm sockets were filled and a little allowed to squeeze out to make a seal. The Milliput had enough adhesion to hold the arms in position while it cured.

Vaseline has one wonderful characteristic which is a boon to military figure modellers: it prevents Milliput sticking to a surface. Because the shoulders of the torso had been coated with Vaseline, once the Milliput had cured the arms could be pulled away. Each arm had a perfectly-formed nodule of cured Milliput that fitted exactly into the figure's corresponding shoulder socket.

Detailing

Designing a figure with removable arms not only makes complicated poses possible and casting much easier, but it gives complete freedom when the uniform is being built up from Milliput.

Most of the Grenadier's uniform detail had been filed away, leaving just the cartouche box, coat-tail turnbacks, and leggings. I now removed the unwanted plume from the drummer's cocked hat, then began modelling the new uniform. The shirt collar, waistcoat, coat collar and facings were formed from Milliput. This was smoothed into place, and while still soft the edges were cut cleanly with the scalpel.

Once the Milliput had cured, this first part of the uniform was scraped back to the correct size and thickness, using the scalpel, and wet-and-dry paper.

One important point to note at this stage is that there is a difference between the detailed modelling on a toy soldier, and that on a connoisseur figure.

A connoisseur figure's detailing is much finer, and 'in scale', and is enhanced by expert painting in either matt enamels, acrylics or oil paints.

But that fine detailing would be hidden by two coats of gloss paint. When modelling a toy soldier, uniform details such as belts, turnbacks, cuffs and so on, must be built up. Without going overboard and making them clumsy, they must be thick enough to show through the paint.

Both cross belts were modelled next, again with Milliput, pressed into position and cut to the approximate size. At the same time the soldier's hair was modelled - there was some artistic licence here, the queue being made much looser than regulations allow. At this stage I thought it best to fit the arms. The firing position means the right arm is across the chest, and I wanted to check that the thickness of the modelling on the jacket front didn't make this impossible.

So, the arms were placed in position, cuffs were modelled, and the Milliput around the upper arms was scraped and smoothed with wet-and-dry so that it blended smoothly into the shoulders.

Most of the coarser modelling had now been done, and all that was left was the relatively fine detailing.

Apart from waistcoat pockets, buttons, and the hat's cockade, the main area to be worked on was the cross-belt over the right shoulder. This was the original waist belt, so it had a buckle, slide, and carried the soldier's bayonet. All of these were modelled with Milliput.

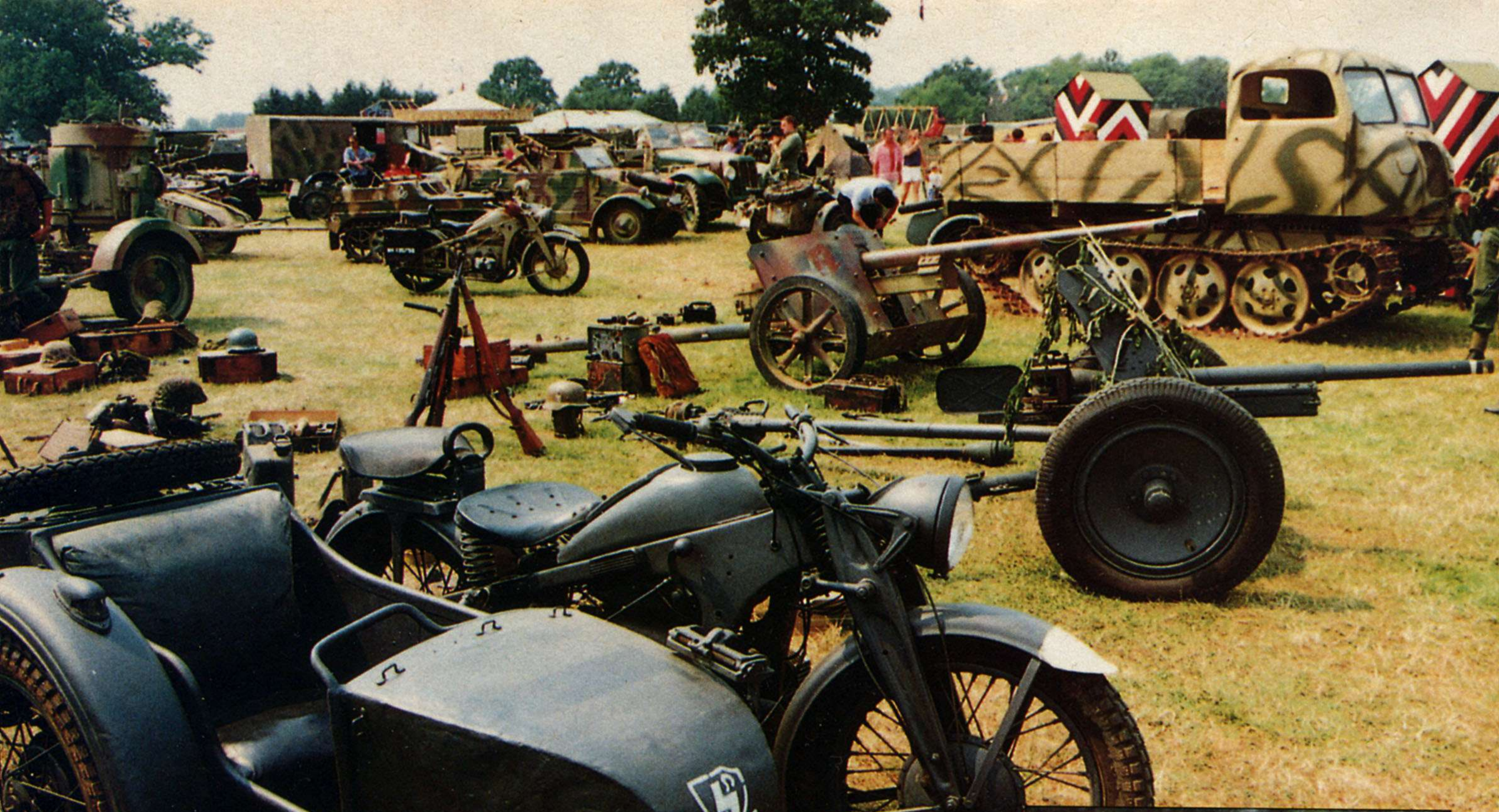
The bayonet socket was the trickiest. The technique used here was to make the socket with a tiny cylinder of Milliput, then work an the still soft Milliput with a fine, moistened paint brush.

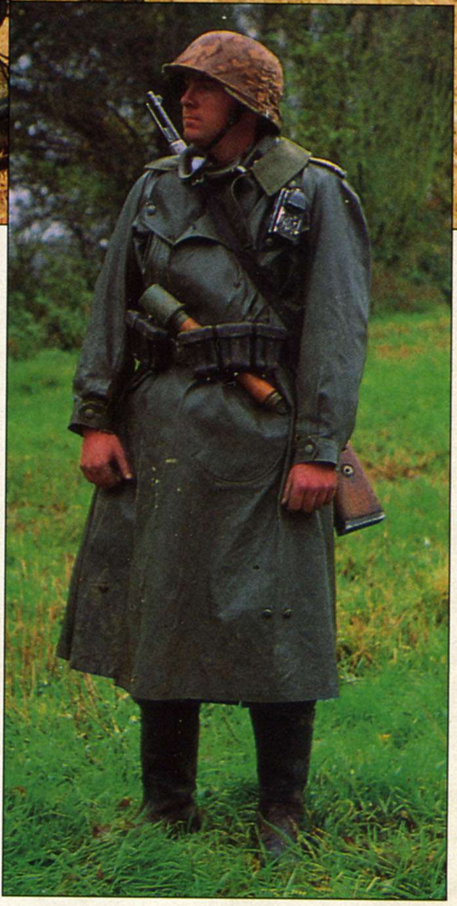
The belt buckle looks difficult, but is easily modelled in two stages. First, place a tiny, flat square of Milliput in position on the belt. When that has cured, place an even tinier half-cylinder of Milliput across the square - so that no part of it quite reaches any of the edges - and the belt will appear to be threaded through the buckle. If you want to venture into some really fine detail, a speck of Milliput will serve as the tip of the buckle's tang!

Finally, buttons were placed in position using minute blobs of Milliput worked into final shape with a moistened paint brush, and when everything had cured the figure was smoothed by careful rubbing with fine wire wool.

The figure of a private of the 5th Foot - the master for any number of replicas - was now ready far moulding, and I will deal with that in the next issue. ■

Please note that the plagiarism of any commercially produced figures from moulds and then selling the castings from such moulds for commercial gain without the written permission of the originator is a criminal offence and could render the plagiarist liable to prosecution.





ABOVE: A Second Battle Group vehicle and equipment display at Beltring in 1994. Nearest the camera is a Zündapp motorcycle combination with the Pak 35/36 3.7cm and Pak 38 5cm anti-tank guns behind and in front of the RSO tracked vehicle. RIGHT: SS dispatch rider wearing a grey rubberised motorcyclist's coat with field grey collar. He wears an original SS Oakleaf helmet cover (Autumn side out) and carries a 7.92mm Kar 98k rifle on his back. Under his belt is a StiGr 39 hand grenade; note the original WWII German army torch worn fixed to a button on his lapel. Around his neck are motorcyclist's goggles.

The Second Battle Group

Andy Colborn describes the organisation behind the now well-established WWII re-enactment and historical society

The Second Battle Group is a WWII Battle re-enactment and historical society whose aim is not to glorify war, but to portray the German fighting soldier of WWII and to recreate an interesting period in history.

Formed in 1978, the SBG originally consisted of British, American and German troops, but soon the Allied units had so few members left in them that the SBG decided to become a German only society. As the Allied groups always portrayed elite troops, the SBG followed the same course and modelled itself on the *1.SS.Pz.Div.Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler*. We chose this division because not only was it Germany's elite fighting force, but with the exception of North Africa, it fought on every major front throughout Europe from the Polish campaign in 1939 until it surrendered to the Allies in Austria in 1945.

Representation

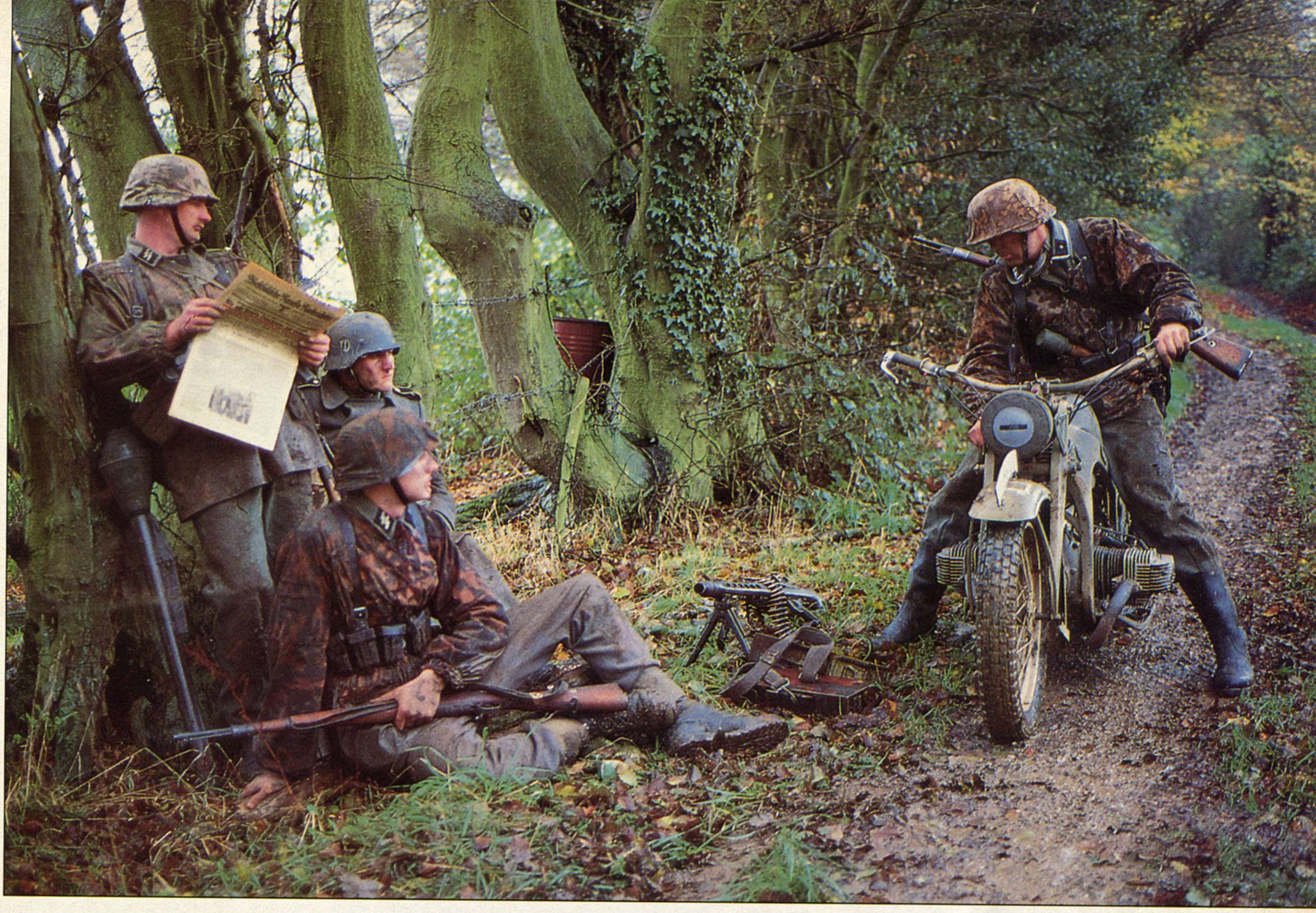
We represent Grenadiers of the *3.Kp.Rgt.Nr1*, a standard infantry *kompanie* which, in 1944, would comprise four motorcycle *Kettenkrad* (tracked motorcycles), 11 *Kübelwagens/Schwimmwagens* and 13 Opel *Blitz* (or similar type) trucks and possibly one or two *SdKfz 251* half-tracks. Weaponry consisted of 59 pistols/submachine-guns, 115 rifles, 18 light machine-guns, four heavy machine-guns and two medium mortars. Personnel strengths were three officers, 29 NCOs and 165 men.

Since appearing in ***Military Modelling*** in September 1989 the membership of the SBG has risen from 20 members to nearly 60 and includes authors, historians, model makers, model kit producers, board wargamers and WWII veterans from both German and British forces. We have an Indian member who attends only public displays and wears an authentic uniform of the 'Indian Freikorps'.

We have also added to our vehicle collection considerably and the members of the SBG own a *Kübelwagen*, *Schwimmwagen*, Steyr, Kettenkrad, Demag, Mercedes radio truck, BMW motorcycle combination, Zündapp motorcycle combination, solo BMW and Zündapp motorcycles and our most important vehicle, a 1947 Czech Tatra half-track which has been converted to resemble the *SdKfz 251* Hanomag half-track. This vehicle is still being converted, but is owned and maintained collectively by SBG members and is used at nearly all public and private re-enactments.

Weapons and equipment

Our weapons are all WWII period and, where necessary, legally held on Firearms certificates. These consists of *Kar 98k* rifles, MP40s (which are legally converted replicas), blank firing replicas, deactivated MG 34s/42s



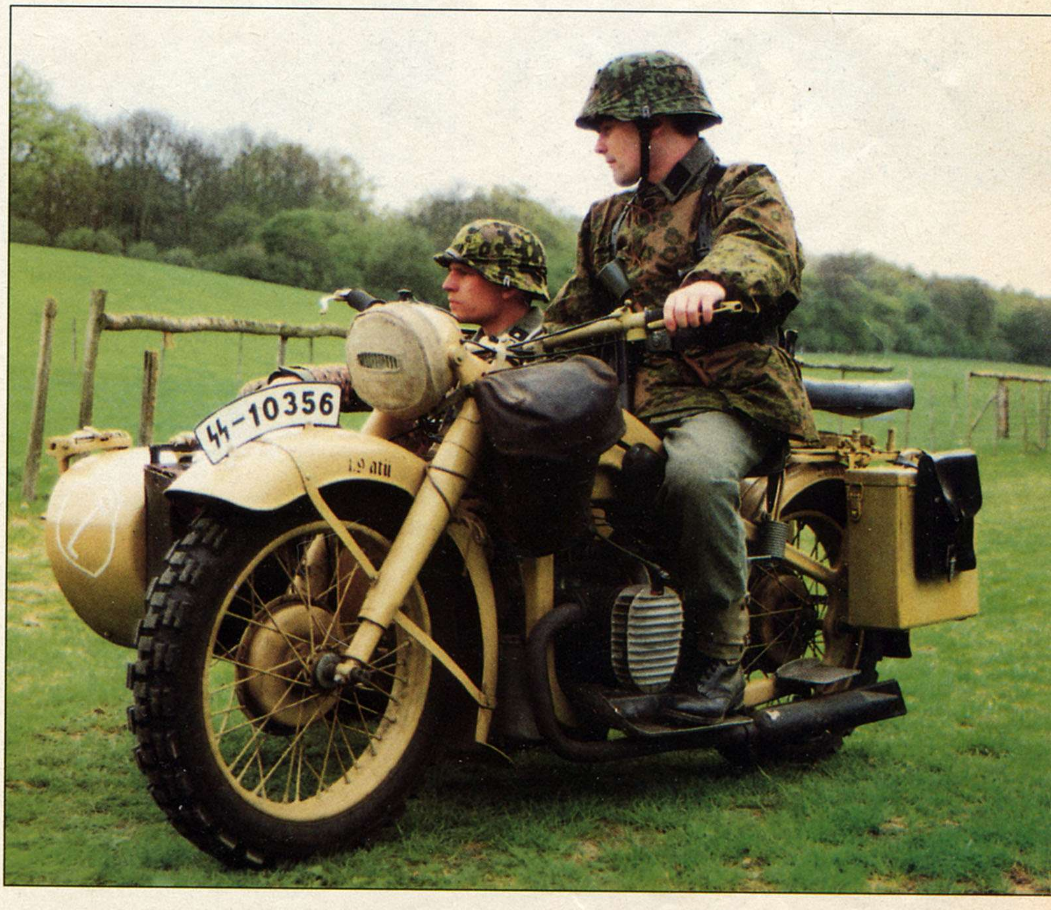
ABOVE: Grenadiers at rest. The sitting man in the foreground is wearing a burred edge Type II smock and helmet cover (Autumn side out) and is holding a 7.92 Kar 98k. The man standing behind him wears an original SS Oakleaf helmet cover and carries a MP40. Propped against the tree is a Panzerfaust 60. The dispatch rider on the Zündapp KF 600 wears an Oakleaf smock and original SS Oakleaf helmet cover, Autumn side out. On his back is a Mauser Kar 98k and tucked into his belt is a StiGr 39 hand grenade. BELOW: The Second Battle Group's BMW R12 750cc motorcycle combination. Photos: Andy Colborn and Nick Adams.

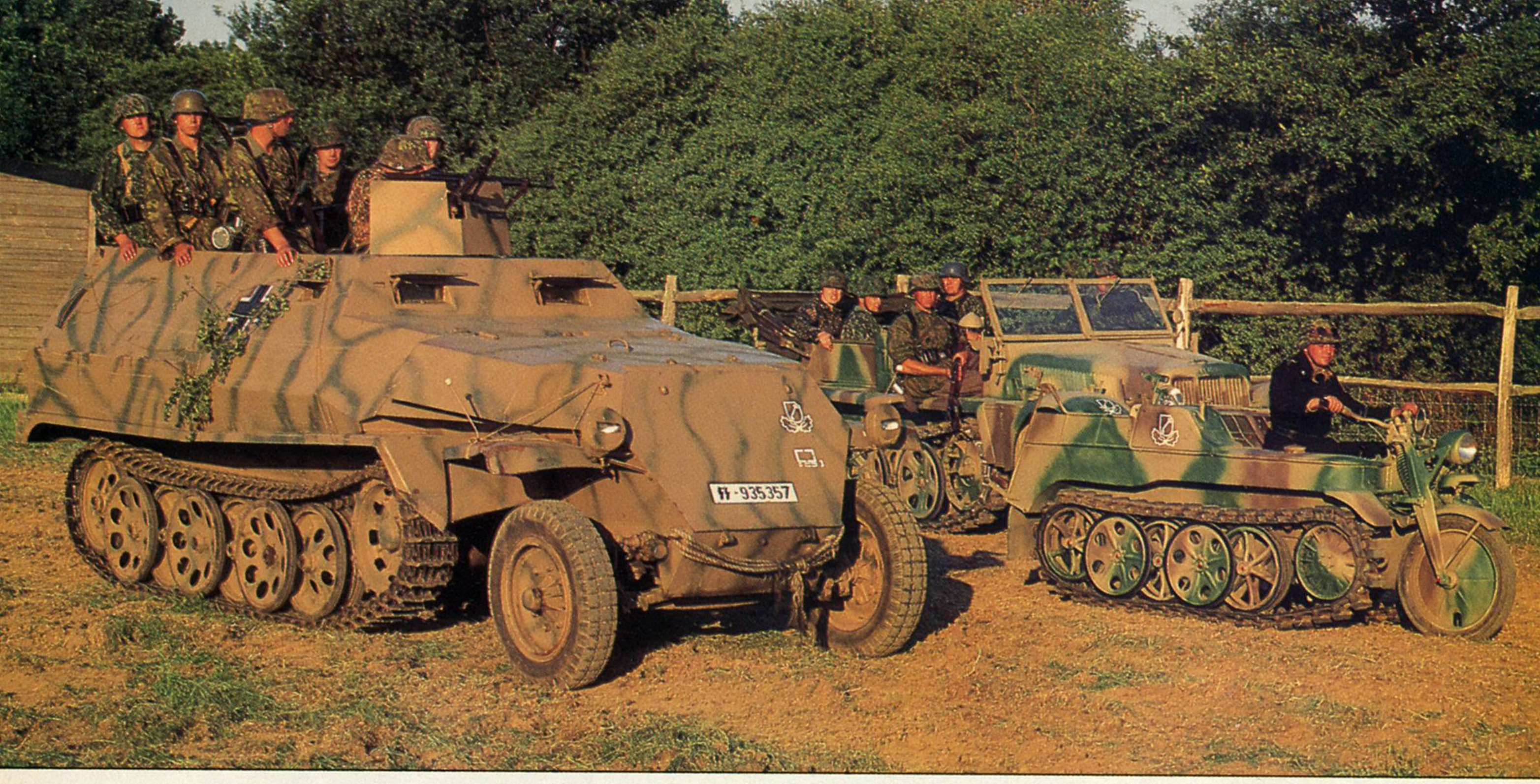
and a collection of heavy weapons including a mortar, *Pak 36* 3.7cm anti-tank gun, *Pak 38 5cm* anti-tank gun and a *Pak 40 7.5cm* anti-tank gun. There's also some rarities such as *Goliath*, the remote-controlled tracked demolition device and an original WWII German searchlight.

The majority of members live in the home counties, but we have members that travel regularly from Sweden, Holland, Germany, France, Scotland and Ireland to take part in our static displays or public and private battle re-enactments. Historic WWII scenarios are regularly reconstructed and to do this we invite Allied groups along to our battle sites. Campaigns such as the Ardennes offensive (winter 1944), Normandy in the summer of 1944 and even the Russian winter battles of 1942/3/4 are often re-enacted. These re-enactments take part on our own pieces of woodland which is situated in Kent (where our half-track is also garaged) or at various other sites mostly in Southern England.

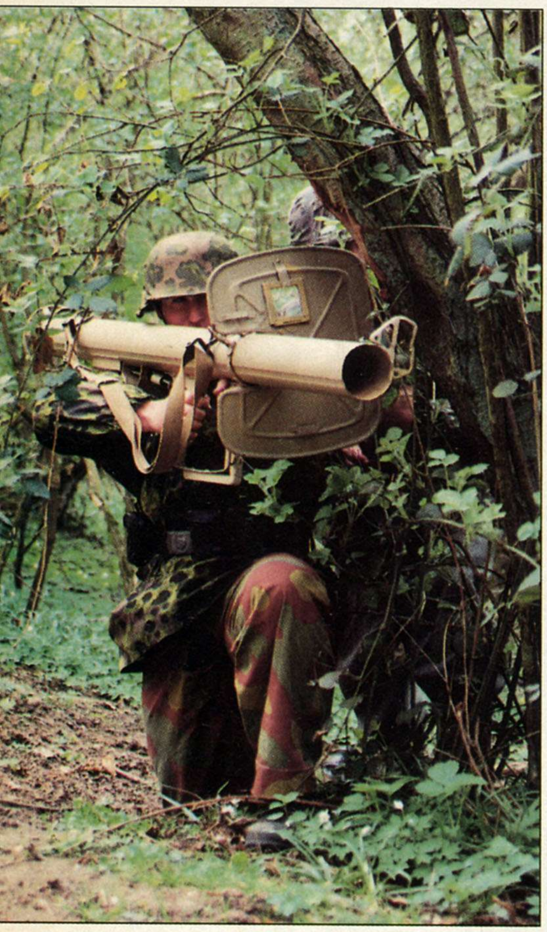
New battalion

For the first time in the SBG's 18-year history a 'sub division' is to be formed within it. This sub division will consists mainly of continental members and will represent a 'Freiwillige' battalion. Any member living on the continent and joining the SBG can now become part of the 'Freiwillige' battalion and attend events (mainly photo sessions and battle site tours) which are held in Holland, Belgium and France as well as those in Britain. ▶

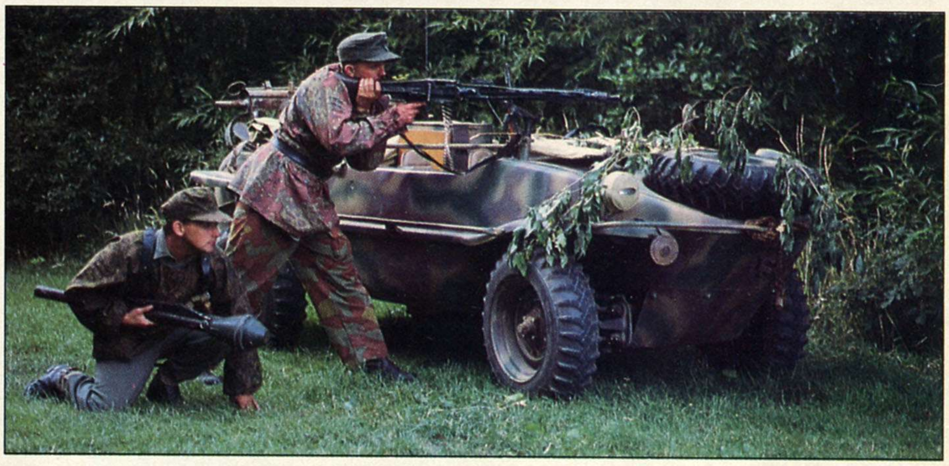




ABOVE: Second Battle Group's half-track and Demag in the arena at the Whitbread/Beltring military show in July 1995. Note the half-track's camouflage is perfectly suited to this terrain.
BELOW: A VW Type 166 Schwimmwagen. This amphibious vehicle (many were 4-wheel drive) proved much more useful than the Type 82 Kübelwagen and was produced until 1944. This particular vehicle is a rare (1943) model as it was built as a radio vehicle (fünkwagen) *and is the only one known to exist. It has only three seats and is fitted with brackets to take the radio behind the driver. It is still complete right down to the Morse code unit and headphones! The MG 42 and Panzerfaust 60 are being displayed here. Also visible above the high mounted exhaust is the rod (not usually included in model kits) used for lowering the rear mounted propeller drive. This vehicle does have the original wooden paddles, but these are removed when it is driven in case they get damaged.*



Two man team preparing to fire the 8.8cm Raketenpanzerbüchse 54 (RPzB 54) more commonly known as a Panzerschreck or 'tank terror'. It was introduced into service during 1944 and replaced the earlier RpzB 43 model. It could fire hollow charge armour piercing missiles and had a range of 150 metres and a barrel life of 1,000 rounds. The second crew member had to keep well clear of the back of the RpzB 54 as a jet of flame four metres long was emitted on firing. The Grenadier wears 'Oakleaf A' pattern helmet cover and 'Plane Tree Type 1, Pattern 3 smock'. his trousers are of Italian camouflage pattern generally issued to the Waffen SS in the Spring of 1944.



Uniforms and awards

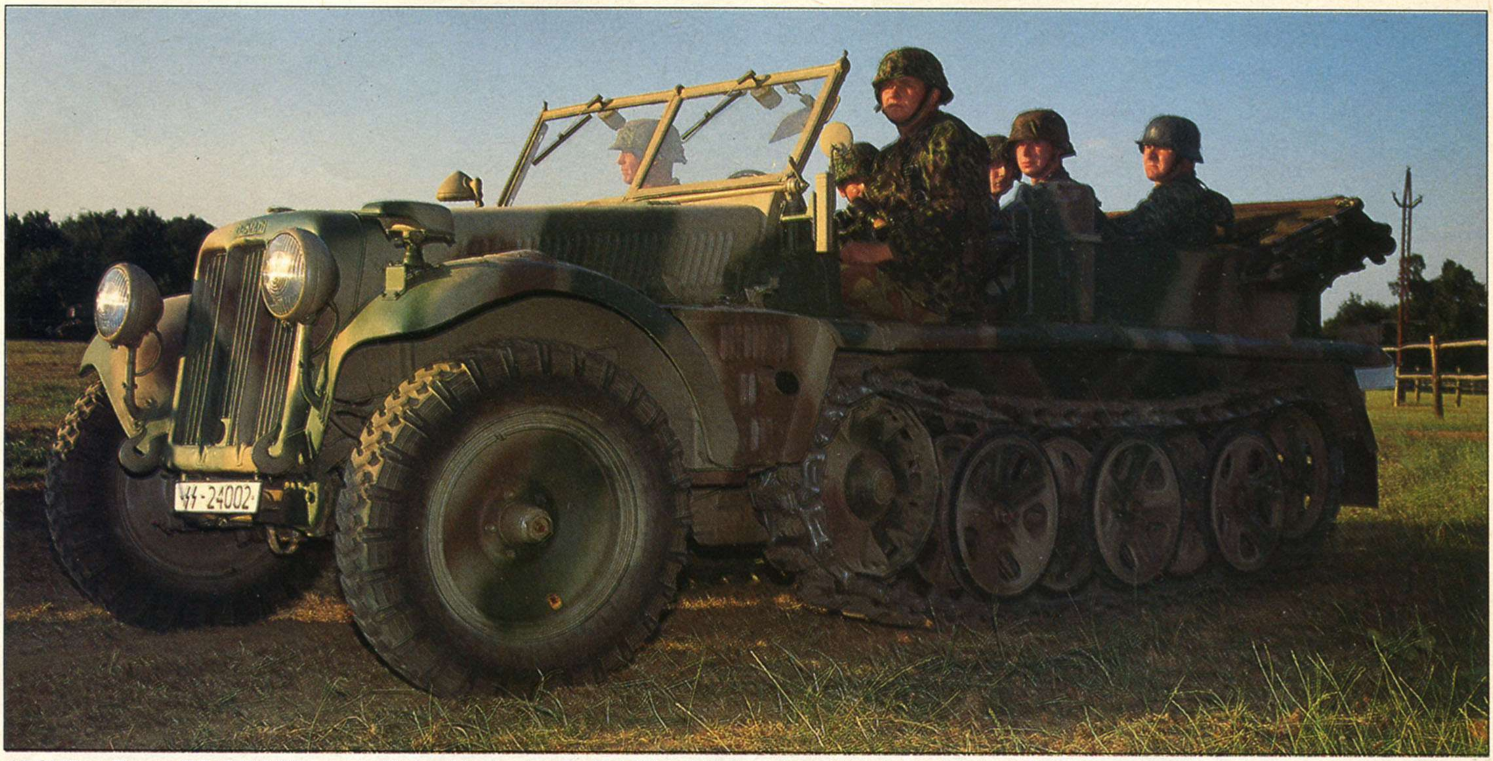
Uniforms mainly consist of the best quality reproduction items, such as padded winter parkas and trousers, smocks and camouflage suits along with field grey uniforms, although some members do own and wear original WWII tunics, trousers and camouflage clothing which can cost thousands of pounds.

Small items are not overlooked either and most members wear correctly stamped identity discs and carry correctly filled out paybooks and in keeping with historical re-enactment also carry original WWII pfennigs and bank notes along with driving licences and postcards, etc. Medals such as the Iron Cross and Infantry Assault badge are awarded for services to the SBG. Besides taking part in re-enactments, training days are also held where correct marching and rifle drill is taught by a WWII NCO veteran of the German armed forces.

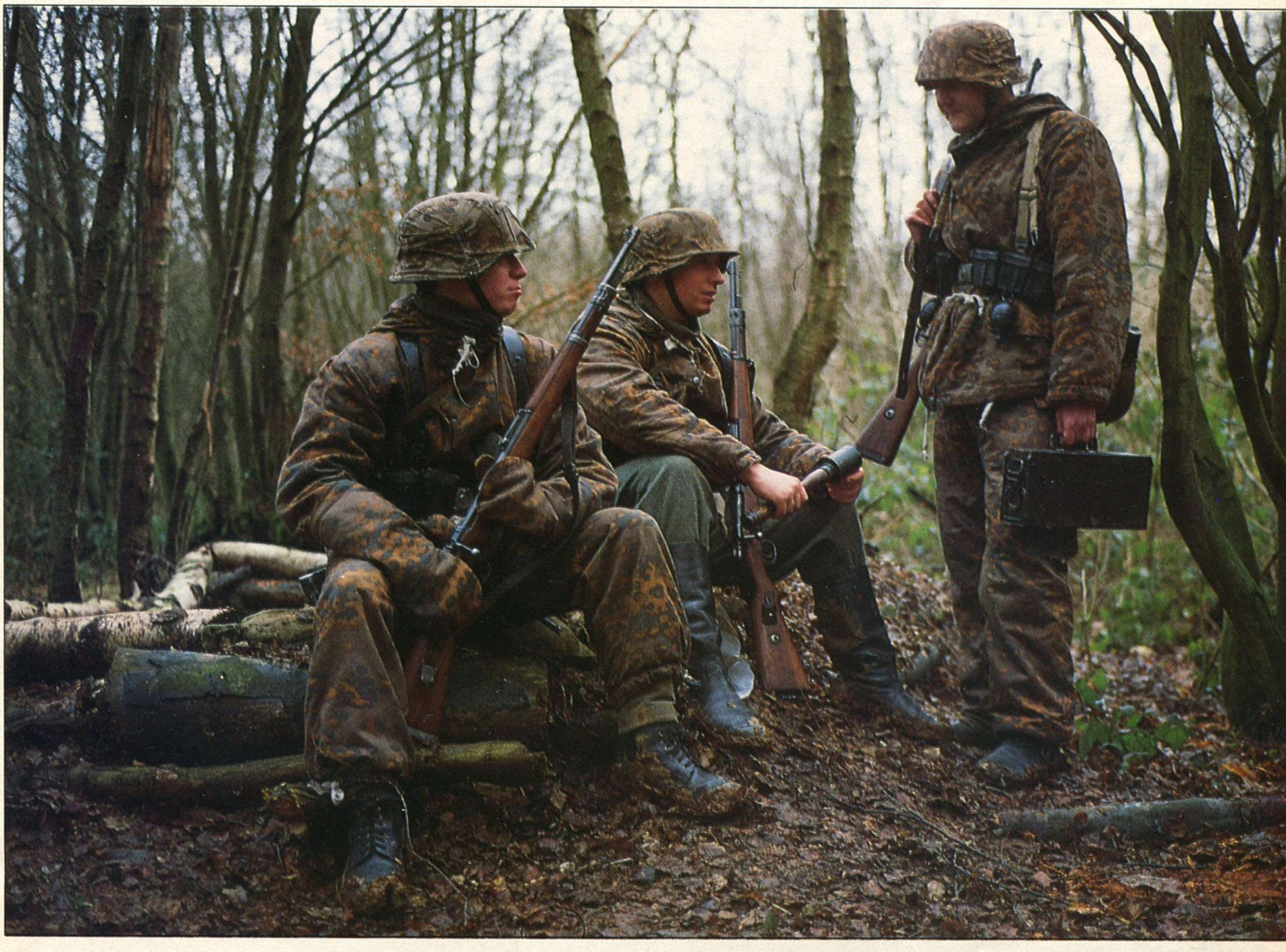
Public shows

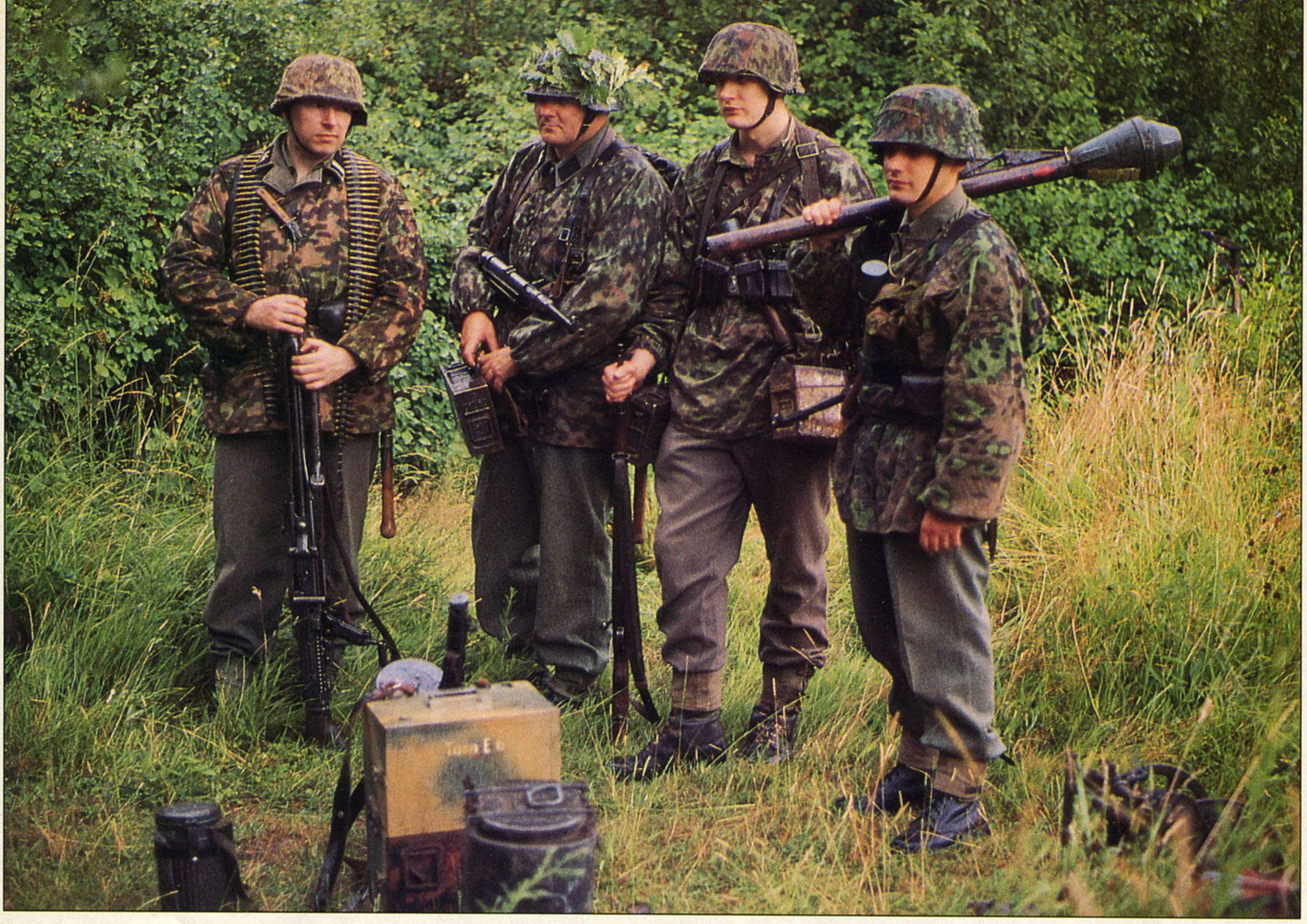
Finally, the SBGs most impressive role is attending public shows such as those held at Southsea Common (May) and Beltring, Kent (July) where we display our vehicle and kit collections. We also regularly travel abroad to Europe to drive along routes that the original *Leibstandarte* drove along over 50 years ago, visit battle sites, meet up with veterans and (with permission) excavate battle sites where anything can be found from rifle rounds to complete Panzers!

The group has worked with many prestigious organisations, such as the British ex-POW society and Bovington Tank museum. We have also appeared on television in Britain and Europe, featured in many newspapers and have also produced our own uniform and equipment books (a recent title being *War Machines No.16, German Infantry in WWII* published by Verlinden Publications) which are on sale in most model shops.



ABOVE: A Demag D7 (SdKfz10) principally used for towing the Pak 38 or Pak 40 and carrying the crew. Although now very rare items these tractors were the most commonly used half-tracks during WWII. This particular Demag has been 100% restored using spares and engine parts from other Demags found in the Ardennes region from Kampfgruppe Pieper. Note: the driver wears Italian camouflage trousers which were issued to the HJ and LAH shortly before the Normandy campaign of June 1944. BELOW: The Grenadier in the foreground is wearing a reversible padded winter suit with the 'Oakleaf A' side (Autumn colour) showing. He is also wearing padded reversible mittens and an 'Oakleaf A' helmet cover. He is holding a late war produced Kar 98k rifle distinguished mainly by its deep butt plate, whereas his comrade sitting besides him is holding an early model Kar 98k which has a flat butt plate. The Grenadier standing wears a full padded winter suit and late war canvas Y-straps whereas the standard leather Y-straps are worn by the two seated men. Of note is the Eierhandgranate 39 (EihGr 39) egg type grenades hanging from the Kar 98k ammo pouches on his belt. He is carrying a case for 7.92mm ammunition.





ABOVE: Machine-gun crew/assault squad Normandy 1944. The Rottenführer with the MG 42 wears a Burred Edge smock with Oakleaf helmet cover. Around his neck is a belt of 7.92mm ammunition and tucked into his smock is a rare close combat infantry dagger which was also worn on the inside of the jackboot. The two Grenadiers to his left also both wear Burred Edge smocks (Summer side out). The first has foliage fixed to netting on his helmet and carries an MP40 machine pistol and ammunition box for the MG 42. The Grenadier on his left carries a Kar 98k rifle, has a StiGr 39 stuck under his belt and also carries an ammo box for the MG42. The last Grenadier wears a Plane Tree smock and 'Oakleaf B' helmet cover (distinguishable from 'Oakleaf A' by the thin black lines around the green mottling). He carries a Panzerfaust 60, MP40 and has a StiGr 39 under his belt. Visible in the foreground is the Torn E.b. radio receiver and infantry soup/stew container.

BELOW: This SS Grenadier wears a very rare Type II burred edge smock (with camo loops) and forage cap. He carries the standard 7.92mm Kar 98k bolt action rifle and tucked under his belt is a Stielhandgranate 39 (StiGr 39) hand grenade (referred to by the Allies as a 'Potato Masher'). Also visible is the mess tin and gas mask case (with gas cape attached). On the horse is an original German Army pack and original Waffen-SS zeltbahn.

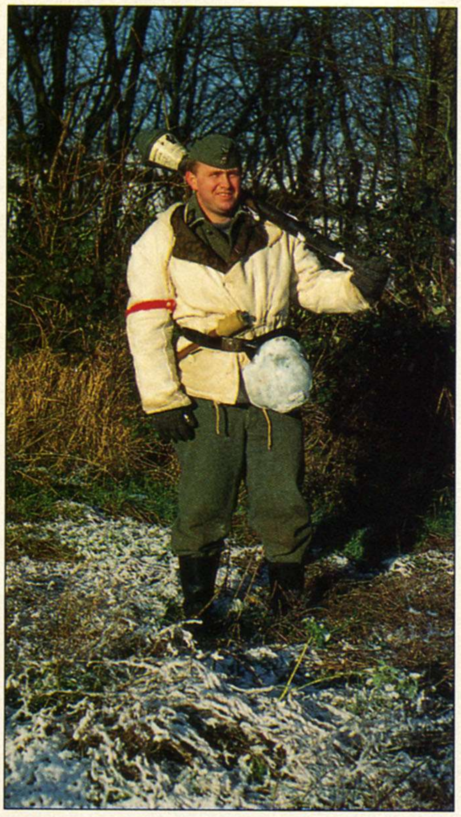
LEFT: Scharführer wearing an early war Plane Tree smock and an original SS Oakleaf cover on his helmet (both Autumn side out). He wears field grey trousers and jackboots. Around his neck he wears standard issue Dienstglas 6x30 binoculars and his visible equipment consists of leather Y-straps, mess tin, Kar 98k ammo pouches and leather belt with SS buckle. He is carrying a Mauser 7.92mm Kar 98k rifle and his headgear is a 1940 pattern Feldmütze n.A. (literally new pattern). This is the standard combat uniform for a Grenadier/NCO.

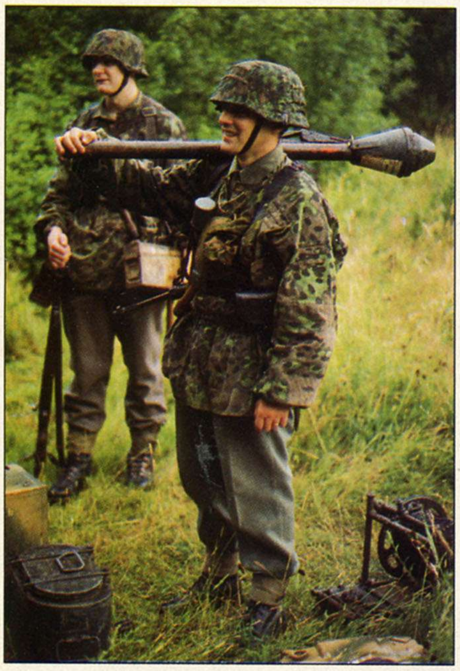
The SBG is to go onto the Internet which will not only allow the SBG to advertise world-wide, but will also be able to offer a historical service (such as uniforms, weapons, equipment, unit history and composition as well as vehicle information) to any interested parties.

New recruits

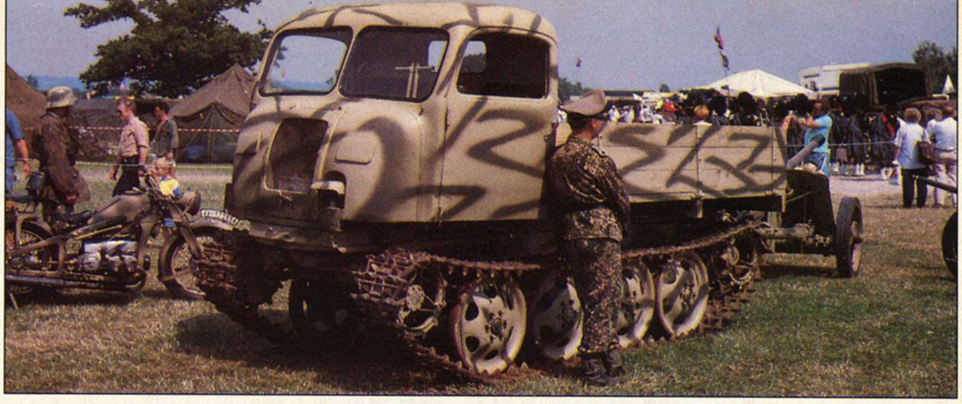
The SBG is always on the lookout for new recruits and would also like to hear from any Allied units (in the United Kingdom or the rest of Europe) that are interested in taking part in our historical re-enactments. Members ages range from 15-75 years and the Group prints a monthly newsletter which includes SBG battle and show reports, historical articles and news of forthcoming events.

For information about becoming a member of the SBG write to us care of ***Military Modelling*** magazine and mark the envelope clearly **SECOND BATTLE GROUP** (Please enclose 2 x 25p stamps). ■



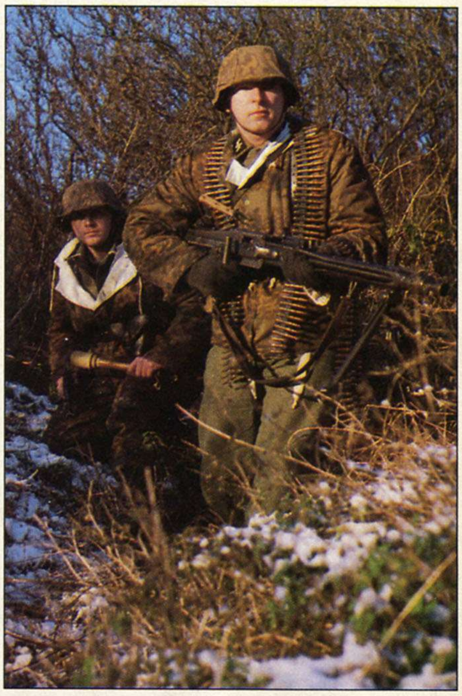


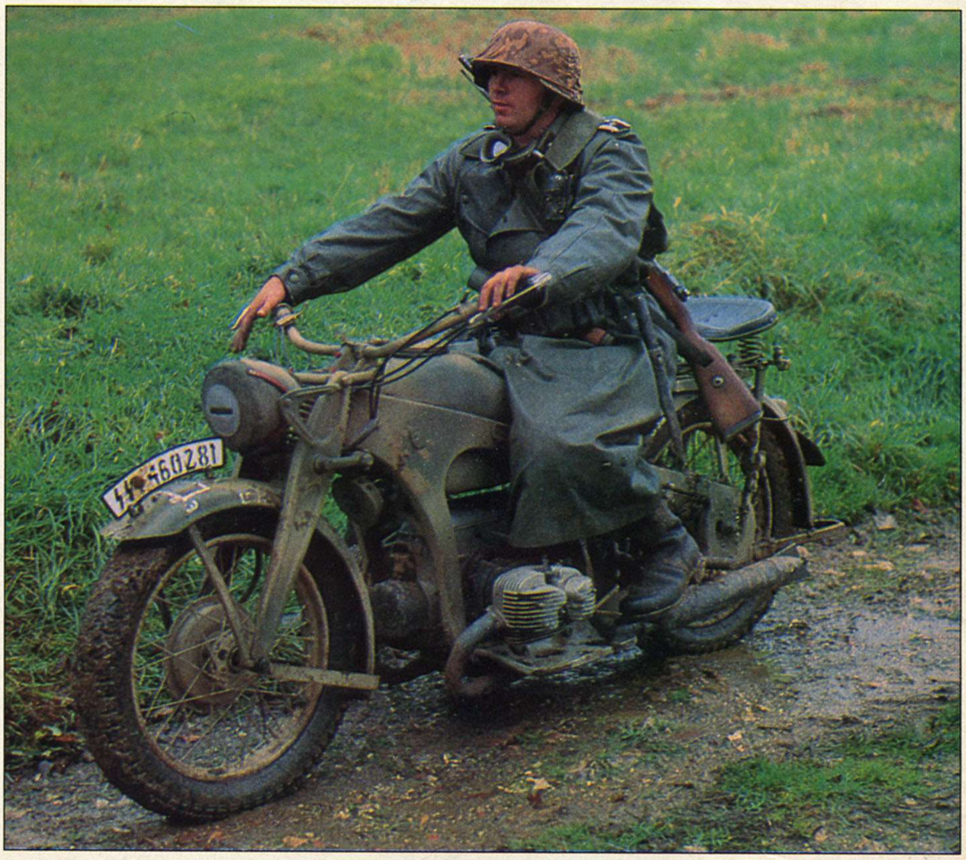
ABOVE: A young squad leader of the Waffen-SS. This Grenadier wears a Plane Tree smock and 'Oakleaf B' helmet cover (distinguishable from 'Oakleaf A' by the thin black lines around the green mottling) both summer side out. His weapons include an MP40, P.38 pistol in a black leather holster on his belt, a StiGr 39 hand grenade is tucked into his belt and another under his leather Y-straps. He carries standard 6x30 Dienstglas binoculars and 'stuffed' into his belt is a camo forage cap. This is a typical shot of how a young squad leader of the LAH/HJ would have appeared in Normandy in June 1944.
RIGHT: A 1941 Zündapp KF600 motorcycle. This vehicle is always used at SGB private re-enactments and public displays. Besides wearing a motorcyclist's rubberised coat the rider also carries a 7.92mm Mauser Kar 98k standard issue rifle. His helmet cover is an original Waffen-SS 'Oakleaf A' model, Autumn side out.

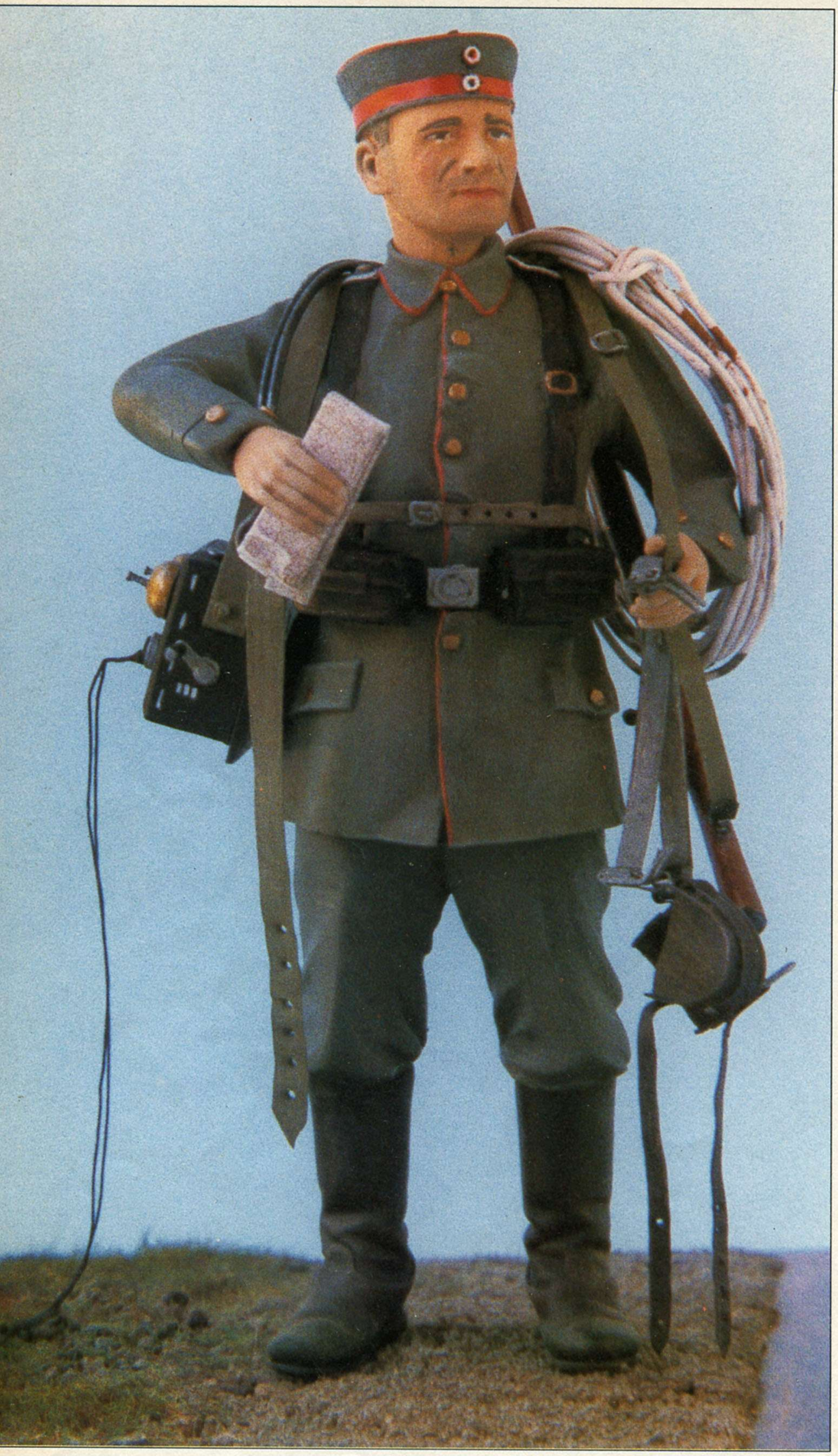


ABOVE: Another rare vehicle - the RSO/01 (Raupenschlepper Ost) which were built in quantity for use on the Russian front. This was a very efficient prime mover and was in service from 1944. It showed some Russian influence in its design and could pull loads up to the 10.5 cm Howitzer. It was fully tracked and was steered by two upright levers with right-angled handlebars which are clearly visible through the windscreen. This vehicle is quite difficult to steer until experience is gained. It is towing a Pak 38 5cm anti-tank gun.

LEFT: Scharführer carrying a Panzerfaust 60 with a Stielhandgranate 43 tucked under his belt. On his belt is a leather Luger P.08 holster. He is wearing a white padded winter parka which is reversible to Autumn 'Oakleaf A' pattern. On his right arm is a red marker band and this and other coloured bands (green for example) were worn on the Russian front as a means of identification and as a security measure from Russians who also wore white snow camouflage clothing; (i.e. red would be worn for three days and then changed to green in case the enemy tried infiltration using the colours). The NCO wears a new style Feldmütze cap introduced in 1940 to replace the older SS-VT style. The helmet slung on the belt is the later war Model 43 'Raw Edged' pattern which was much simpler to produce than the earlier M35 pattern which had a 'Rolled rim'. This particular helmet has been whitewashed.
RIGHT: The Rottenführer in the foreground carries a MG 42 with spare 7.92mm ammunition around his neck. He is wearing an 'Oakleaf A' padded parka and tucked just below the lapels is a rare WWII German infantry close combat dagger (which was also carried inside of the jackboot). He is also wearing an original Oakleaf A helmet cover. The Scharführer in the background carries a Stielhandgranate 43 stick grenade.

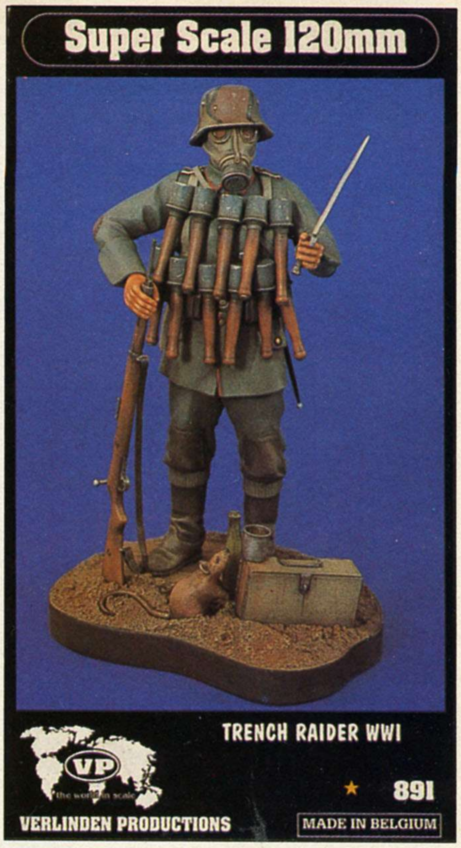






"Did Somebody Call?"

John Boyton converts a Verlinden 120mm German 'Stormtrooper' figure into one of a little less hectic persuasion



Verlinden Productions Trench Raider WWI Kit No. 891 - the basis for this conversion.

Communications can be the winning or losing of a battle and without the correct up-to-date information any decision made would likely be redundant before the message is received. This was especially apparent in The First World War where telephones, gas lamps and even carrier pigeons were used to relay messages.

With this in mind, an idea I'd thought about for a while came to fruition. I had seen a photograph in a book on WWI of a German telephone linesman which appealed to me and as I hadn't made too many models from this period, I thought that it would make a pleasant change.

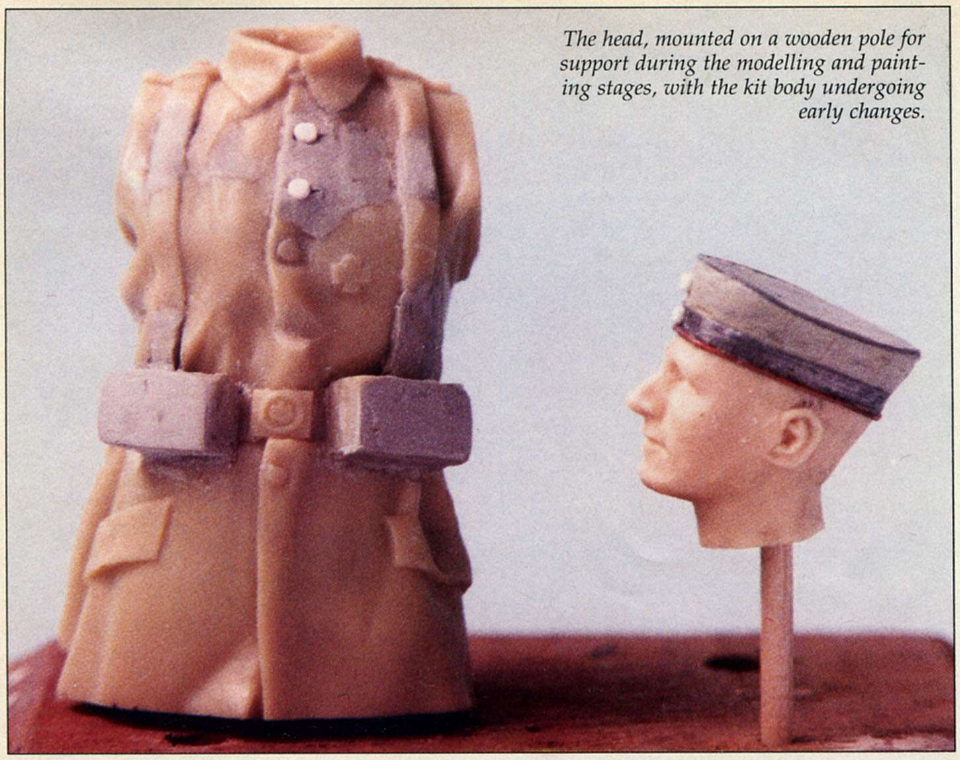
After looking through some of my model figure kit catalogues, the most suitable figure seemed to be the Verlinden Productions, Trench Raider WWI. (Kit No.891). This figure has a row of grenades on his chest, as well as wearing a gas mask, but the reason it seemed suited to my needs is that he has the correct tunic, trousers and boots that I wanted my figure to be wearing. I decided to make my figure as near to the original photograph as possible, so certain subtle changes would be needed.

Converting the body

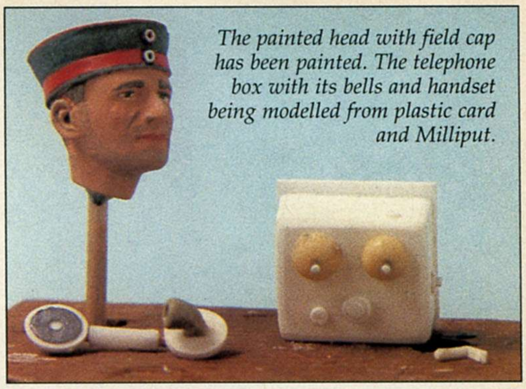
As the kit head was unsuitable, a replacement was taken from my spares box. I am not too sure which kit it originally belonged to, as there are quite a few in the box from Kirin. Once the neck of the new head was altered to fit into the body, it was put aside until I made the M1910 field cap.

The body and legs were glued together and the depressions where the grenades sit filled in. This meant that the cast-on straps had to be built up. As the tunic front was not complete, two new buttons were added, using plastic card and the overlap added at the same time. Milliput epoxy putty was used for the tunic and straps.

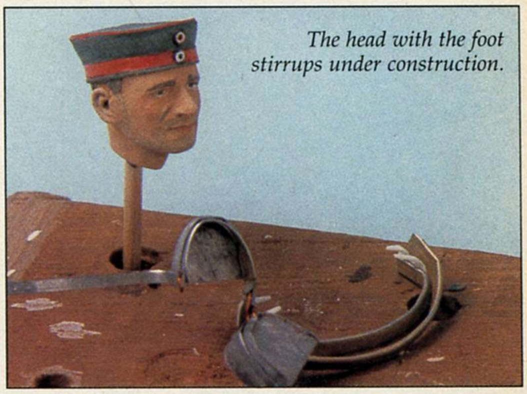
Once this had cured the triple ammunition



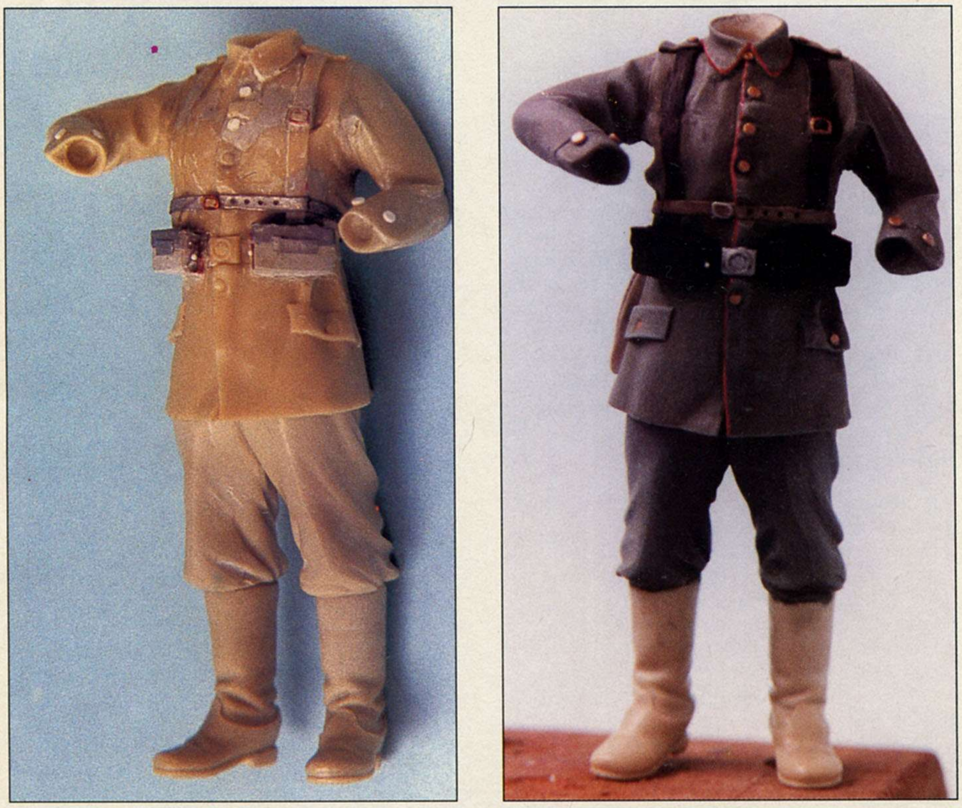
The head, mounted on a wooden pole for support during the modelling and painting stages, with the kit body undergoing early changes.



The painted head with field cap has been painted. The telephone box with its bells and handset being modelled from plastic card and Milliput.



The head with the foot stirrups under construction.



ABOVE LEFT: Trousers have been added to the body along with the modified boots. The ammunition pouches and chest straps have been attached. ABOVE RIGHT: The body section (all but the boots) being painted.

pouches were cut down to doubles as the man in the photograph is wearing M1889 Pattern cartridge pouches, which is the reason for the neck strap, as they had a tendency to fall forward when full. The pouches were smoothed down using a knife blade to reduce their depth, then Milliput was used to smooth them and blend the pairs together. To make the smaller details on the pouches metal foil sheet was used with the side studs made from plastic card. A cross strap was cut from metal foil and added to the chest; two buckles were made from wire for the neck and chest straps.

The figure's elbows and knees had reinforcing patches moulded-on which were not needed, so these were removed with a knife and fine wet and dry paper to smooth them off. The arms were altered so as to be more in keeping with the photograph. Unfortunately, I did not after them enough, but more of that later. The cuffs on the man's uniform in the photograph I was working to were 'Swedish' these were the next items to alter. The original cuffs were cut and smoothed down until they looked correct, then the new cuff lines were made by running a razor saw around the edge. Four buttons were produced for the cuffs using my Historex Agents' punch and die set; these were glued on.

With the 'bodywork' complete my attention turned to the boots. These had moulded-on socks around the tops which had to be removed before I fitted them to the legs.

M1910 Field Cap

I made the M1910 field cap from Milliput, smoothed onto the head and shaped. I found that as the putty cured it became easier to shape and to help obtain a smooth finish a paint brush was dipped in water and brushed around the cap. The well-defined area where the cloth cap band sits was added from a thin band of metal foil.

Once the putty had cured I added a very fine piece of wire to the rim of the crown, and a slightly thicker piece was glued onto the lower edge for the piping. The two metal cockades were added from plastic card.

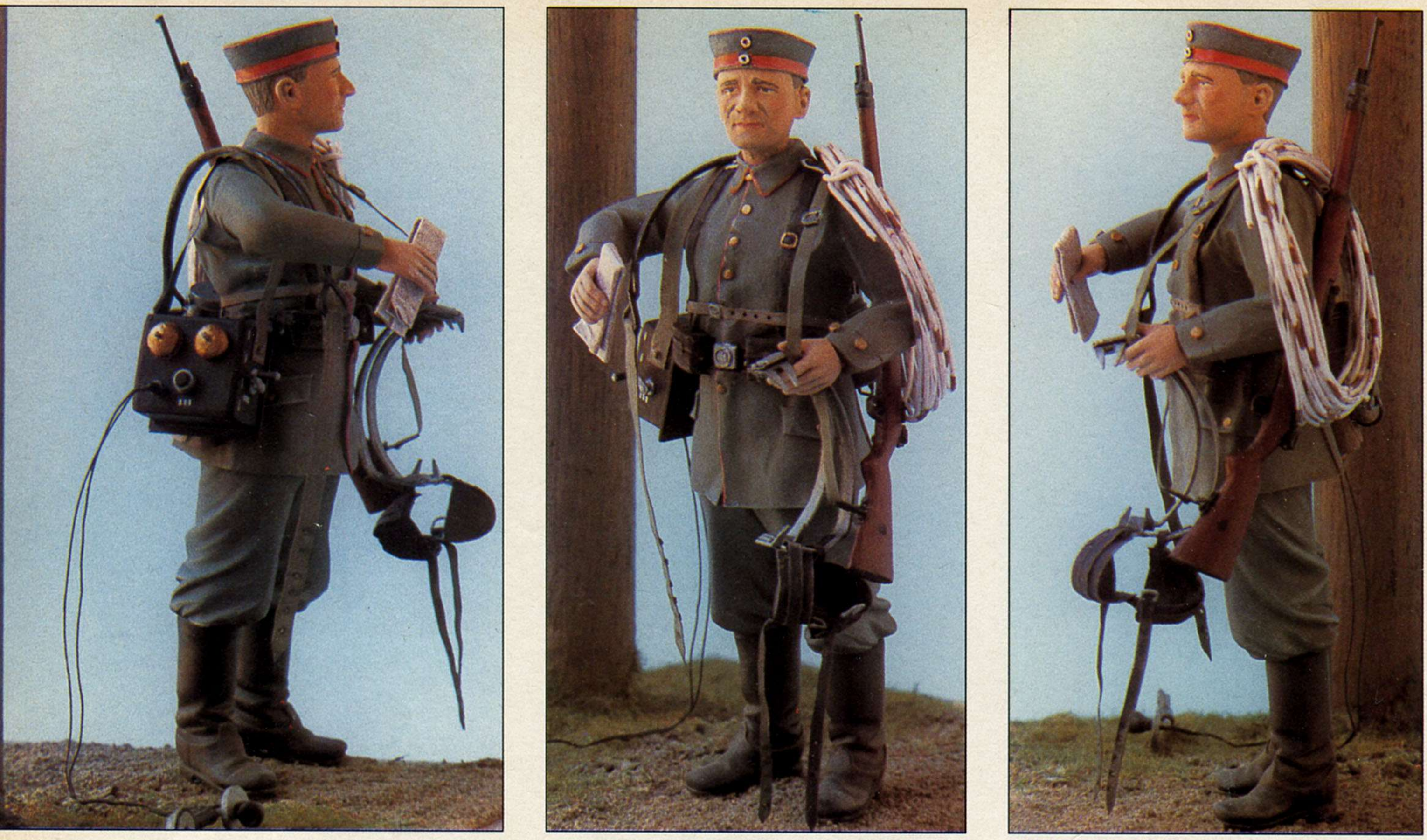
Stirrups

During the construction of the body I had been trying to work out the way in which the feet stirrups worked. The photograph was not really clear enough, but by using a bit of common sense I was able to work out that one of the steel bands had the left foot spike strapped to it and then the other band would go around the back and lock off onto the front band. The right foot spike was able to move around the front band and slide over the join, so that any size of object could be negotiated.

To make these bands some fine brass strip was bent to the correct angle and this was covered in lead sheet to give the right thickness. The foot cups were made using the feet as templates and their straps were added later. Plastic card was used to make the spikes and these were glued onto-the straps. The figure of eight that holds the two bands together was made from brass wire and this was glued onto the bands using metal foil sheet for the joins.

Field telephone

The field telephone was made up from plastic card and to make the two bells the prongs in the two-pin plug of my electric razor was used. To obtain the telephone bell shape the two prongs that fit into the wall socket were pushed into some Plasticine and this was filled with resin. Once the resin had cured ▶



The suitably 'loaded-down' German WWI telephone linesman - an unusual choice of kit and not all that difficult to produce.

a hole was drilled into the 'bells' to accept some fine wire supports. To finish off two small discs of plastic card were added to represent the securing nuts.

The window for the line engaged indicator is plastic, (the Editor tells me in British parlance for telephone exchanges these were called 'dolls eyes' because of their movement during operation resembling the movable eyes on a child's doll), as is also the handset coupling and winding handle. The wire strop that goes around the pole or tree is brass wire with a back belt made of metal foil. I was now ready for the painting - or so I thought!

After a long look at the photograph I realised that the strap that goes across the figure's chest actually carries on right around the body. As I did not have any references as to what might be behind the figure, I decided to make the strap into the gas mask's strap, so more metal foil was added to each end to take it around the back.

Painting

Humbrol enamels were used for all the painting , as no matter how I have tried I just cannot get used to oil paints. As the figure was to portray a soldier well behind the lines, the field cap could be painted without the need for the cloth cover that was used to hide the red band. The lower cockade was painted black-white-black, which denotes a Prussian soldier.

The M1914 tunic was painted No.111 Field Grey with a touch of green as this shade was quite common at the time. It also gives a colour separation between the tunic and trousers. The trousers were painted No.111, but as they were to represent the M1914 trousers of war-time manufacture the red stripe that is on some of the trousers was left off. I tried to find out if the pioneer corps had a different colour of piping on their shoulder straps, but to no avail, so I painted them field grey with white piping for an infantryman and just tell everybody who asks that he had been seconded to this corps! I did paint unit numbers, in red, onto the shoulder straps but once the slings were added they 'disappeared'.

The rest of figure was painted using the books listed under Bibliography as a reference which was mostly the base coat followed by lightening this and dry brushing.

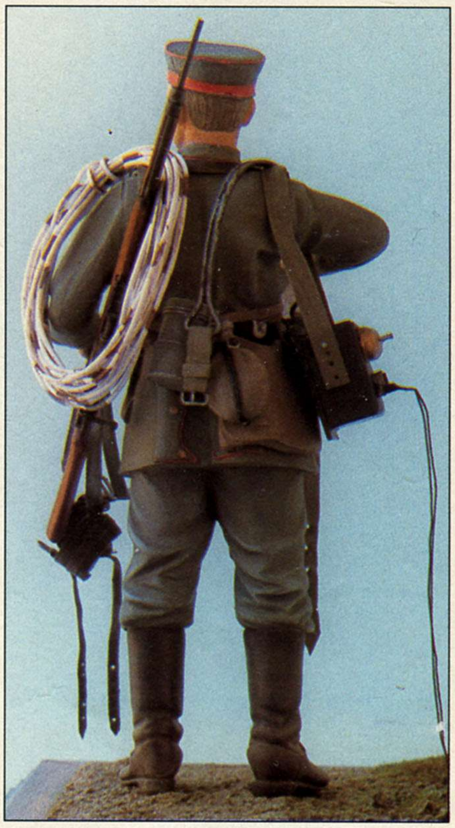
Finishing off

All the accessories were painted off the figure then glued on afterwards. It was here that my mistake with the arms became apparent. When the rifle was glued into place I realised the hand should of been nearer the body, but alter gluing the equipment into the left hand, which I had replaced from another kit, it was near enough to the photograph as to be acceptable. ... but not so the right hand!

Because I had not made up the telephone before checking the position of the right arm, I realised too late that the arm was too far away from the body. In the photo the right hand has the wire strop and the strap for the telephone in it, but when I tried this on the figure it just did not sit right. To overcome my error I used a map from the Verlinden range. The final touch was to make a handset using plastic card and brass wire, with Milliput for the mouth piece.

The base is a picture frame and I selected one slightly bigger than normal so that I could add the pole, which is cut from an old wardrobe's hanging rail, even though this is more symbolic than representative. The ground work is Polyfilla and sand with a sprinkling of static grass.

This is a simple, but effective, conversion with the finished figure looking so different to the Verlinden Productions' original. A lot of the fun was trying to track down the information on the foot stirrups and field telephone.



Bibliography

The German Army 1914-1918, D.S.V. Fosten and R.J. Marrion ISBN 0-85045-283-X
WWI Infantry in Colour Photographs, Laurent Mirouze ISBN 1-87200-425-3
The Experience of WWI, J.M. Winter ISBN 0-33344-614-3

Availability

Verlinden Productions and Historex Punch and Die set via Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ. ■

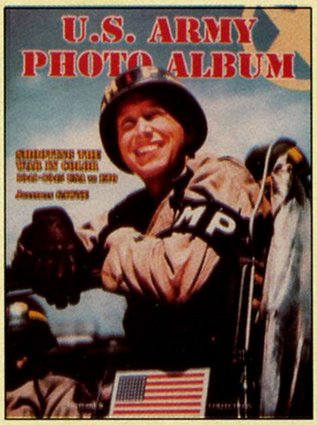
ON PARADE

BOOKS & VIDEOS REVIEWED

U-Boote 1935-1945 The History of the Kriegsmarine U-Boats, Jean-Philippe Dallies-Labourdette. Histoire & Collections, 5 avenue de la République, 75541 Paris, France. ISBN 2-908-182-42-4. Price £21.45.
Originally published in the French language, this English language edition is a super photo essay on the German submarines. The photographs are mainly black and white, though there are colour illustrations, a few photographs, some reconstructions of uniform clothing, but mostly badges and schematics of different boats and their equipment. There is a 'gallery' of original WWII artwork reproduced in colour and black and white showing U-Boat 'aces' and personalities, plus some 'patriotic' posters and other illustrations. A good mix!

Military modellers who have bought the Andrea Miniatures Type VII conning tower kit, or the complete 1:35 scale Accurate Armour Type VII U-Boat kit will find this a useful title. Or if you're simply interested in submarines it's a good one for your library shelf.

You can order this book direct from Nexus Special Interests who distribute it mail order at an all-in price of £24.20 which includes postage and packing. The 'Express Order Hotline' is tel: 01322 616300. Or write to Nexus Special Interests, Nexus House, Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7ST.
K.M.J.



U.S. Army Photo Album, Jonathan Gawne. Histoire & Collections, 5 avenue de la République, 75541 Paris, France. ISBN 2-908-182-40-8. Price £21.45.
Subtitled, 'Shooting the War in Colour 1941-1945 USA to ETO', the publicity on this book refers to WWII as 'the war that was fought in black and white', which was a fair description, but in the last decade or so, lots of hitherto unseen colour photographs taken during that conflict have since been unearthed and published.

This large format book (320mm x 240mm) originally published in France, is colour throughout between its hard covers, now with an English text and captions, and represents the best from the US National Archives. The majority of the pictures are very bright and clear and have stood the passage of over 50 years quite well. The original Kodachrome slide film speed was slow at 10 ASA (ISO) which accounts for most of the colour work being 'posed'. However, the colours are rich and warm and give a very fair representation, as much as colour film can, of the subject matter.

Modellers with an interest in things US WWII military will find this book most helpful. Do not take everything at face value; simply look at page 34 to see what I mean where two photos each show a Sherman M4A1 under different lighting conditions. The Olive Drab colour in the top picture is near to the correct tonal values whereas the bottom picture shows the vehicle as a bluish green. Used wisely, the pictures will assist your modelling pursuits; take, for instance, the picture of captured German vehicles on page 137 where a four-wheeled cart is painted in sand with a red-brown and green over spray and the word Köln (Cologne) painted in white - all quite fresh and it looks as if the picture was taken yesterday!

I recognised one or two pictures that have been 'seen before', but on the whole, what's offered will be new and refreshing to most readers. Recommended.

You can order this book direct from Nexus Special Interests who distribute it mail order at an all-in price of £24.20 which includes postage and packing. The 'Express Order Hotline' is tel: 01322 616300. Or write to Nexus Special Interests, Nexus House, Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7ST.
K.M.J.

Panzerkampfwagen Maus, Thomas L. Jentz, Darlington Productions, PO Box 5884, Maryland, 21034, USA Price $15.95
For anyone with a long-time interest in German tanks, *Maus* has long been a source of fascination - two built and none left, with little surviving material readily available. Then just a few short years ago, and thanks to the end of the Communist regime in Russia, news emerged of a *Maus* resting at Kubinka and since then much more on *Maus* has appeared, including the kits, first from Accurate Armour and later from Dragon.

The 60 pages in this book are filled with over 100 photos and the results of some 20 years of research by the author. Added to all of this are some scale drawings by Hilary Doyle and some cutaways from original German manuals. The photos include wartime ones of Maus on trial, others from Allied archives showing various bits under construction when the Allies captured them and, of course, some detailed shots of the Kubinka Maus. All in black and white, the pictures are just what modellers want, with plenty of detail all round. Put simply, this is 'the book' on Maus for modellers. Very reasonably priced too, and produced on good quality paper it is really well worth buying. Recommended.
R.B.

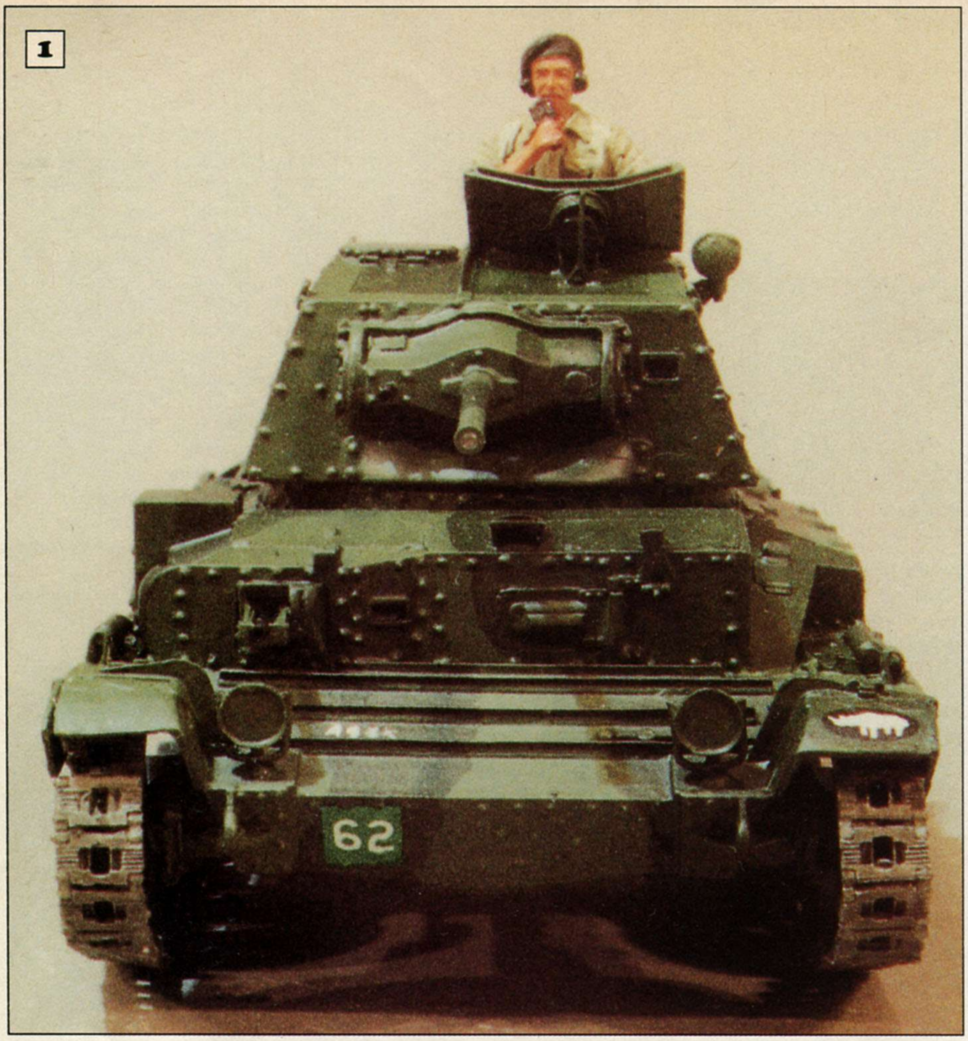
German Automatic Weapons of World War II, Robert Bruce. Windrow & Greene Ltd., 5 Gerrard Street, London W1V 7LJ. ISBN 1-85915-043-8. Price £24.95.
This is an very unusual book, and unique too in that it represents the 'classic' German automatic weapons of WWII in stunning colour photography, being fired, and places them into a 'historical context' by showing them in the hands of authentically uniformed re-enactors.

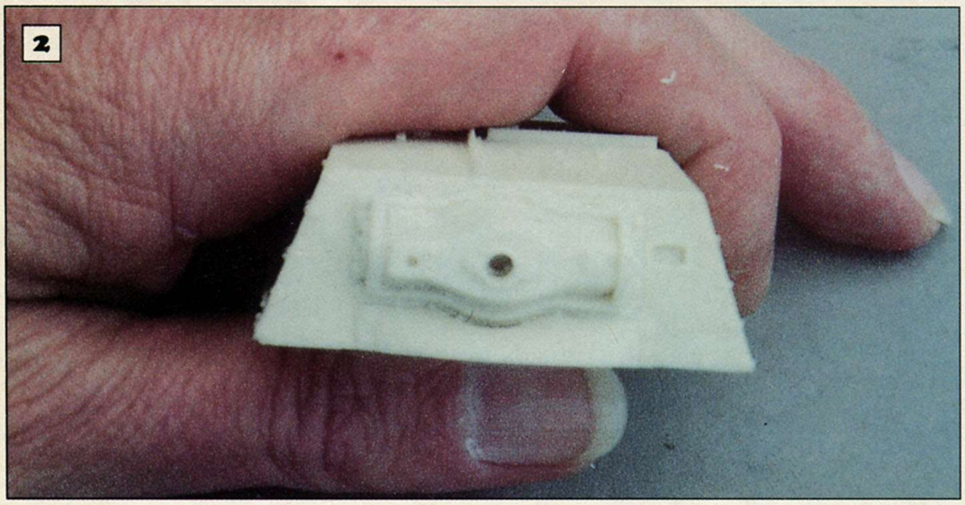
The approach is very different from the usual run of the mill 'gun books' in that the weapons are shown in action, their capabilities illustrated, and how they are field stripped, step by step. Manna from heaven, you would think, for re-enactors, although most such living history societies are not allowed, I'm pleased to say, fully working automatic weapons this side of the Atlantic. The author and his associates are American and benefit from very different gun laws which allow the possession and use of fully automatic weapons - which includes immensely destructive and dangerous, fast-firing light machine-guns!

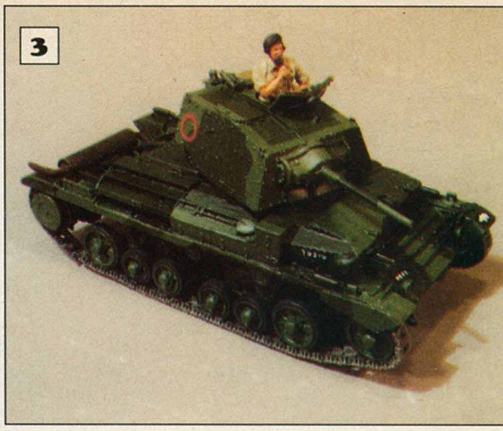
However, the serious student of firearms and military historians will find this well-produced book fascinating. The types covered are the Mauser *Schnellfeuer-Pistole* , MP 40/1 submachine-gun, MG 34, MG 42 machine-guns, FG 42/I and 42/II paratroopers' rifles and the revolutionary *Sturmgewehr 44* assault rifle. There is also an Afterword titled 'The Postwar Legacy' which covers German produced weapons up to the present day. I admire this 'new' approach of presenting everything in colour photographs, plus some contemporary coloured prints. The text is authoritative and this is quite the best book you'll find on German automatic weapons of WWII. I have handled and examined (but not fired) all of the weapons featured in this book, so I'm familiar with what's presented, but I'm still intrigued by this totally refreshing method of exhibiting them. Modellers will glean a lot from this book. Recommended.
K.M.J.

Two Russian language publications have been sent for review by Barbarossa Books - 'Austin Armoured Cars in Russian service' *(Broniautomobile Austin)* produced by the *Modelist Konstruktor* magazine team as a 36-page A-4 size magazine style publication for £7.99. Content is good, lots of black and white photos and scale drawings with colour profiles on the covers. This is the only source for the Russian Austin armoured cars in print, that I am aware of.

The other book is a hardback 146mm x 210mm which covers all Russian armoured fighting vehicles 1905-1995 by A.V. Karpenko. The text is Russian and follows a technical specifications layout with a line side view illustration of each type, with at least one side view drawing and, in the case of major types, four view-drawings. These range from 'simple' types to quite well executed works and, therefore, very useful for modellers. Some types even have cut-away drawings. A Russian/English dictionary should help establishing some Russian terms for easy translation if you don't speak Russian or can call upon the services of someone who can. There are no photographs but everything, armoured cars, tanks, ARVs, APCs, bridge layers and special purpose types are covered. The paper is a little better than the 'bog paper' newsprint usually found in Russian publications and for £14.99 it's an excellent 'instant checklist' for Soviet vehicles. Both books are available from, **Barbarossa Books, West Beynon House, 242 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1PQ.**
K.M.J.







1. The commander fits into the turret perfectly in this head-on view which shows the front marking positions. 2. The turret front showing how the mantlet should fit. 3. Here's my interpretation of the odd turret-top camouflage.

THE TANK MODELLING COURSE

John Prigent completes his two-part feature on tackling a more complicated resin kit - Cromwell Models' 1:35 scale British A-10 Cruiser tank

Finishing the hull

Now you're down to the little bits - tools, lights and exhaust. I'll start with the exhaust. Two V-shaped mounts fit onto the engine deck and the silencer fits onto them. Easy don't you think? Watch out though, there's a potential snag here! The silencer looks symmetrical at a quick glance, but it isn't - look at its ends. One has the mesh coming to the end of the solid silencer shield under it, the other has it overhanging the end of the shield with part of the silencer exposed. That end goes to starboard; if you fit it the other way round the exhaust pipes won't fit. With that sorted out, the curved pipe goes between the port end of the silencer and the armoured outlet cast onto the engine deck, and the right-angled one fits the starboard end of the silencer.

The head lamps are simple to fit, but be careful cleaning them up as their mounts are fragile. The tank I modelled had their glasses painted over, but an alternative often used to stop the sun reflecting on the glass was simply to turn them round so the glasses faced the driver - you can model them this way too.

The tools and other small fittings fit neatly, and you should be able to see most of them clearly on my photographs. The exception is the pickaxe blade, which probably can't be seen clearly. It fits between its helve and the fire extinguisher on the starboard front trackguard.

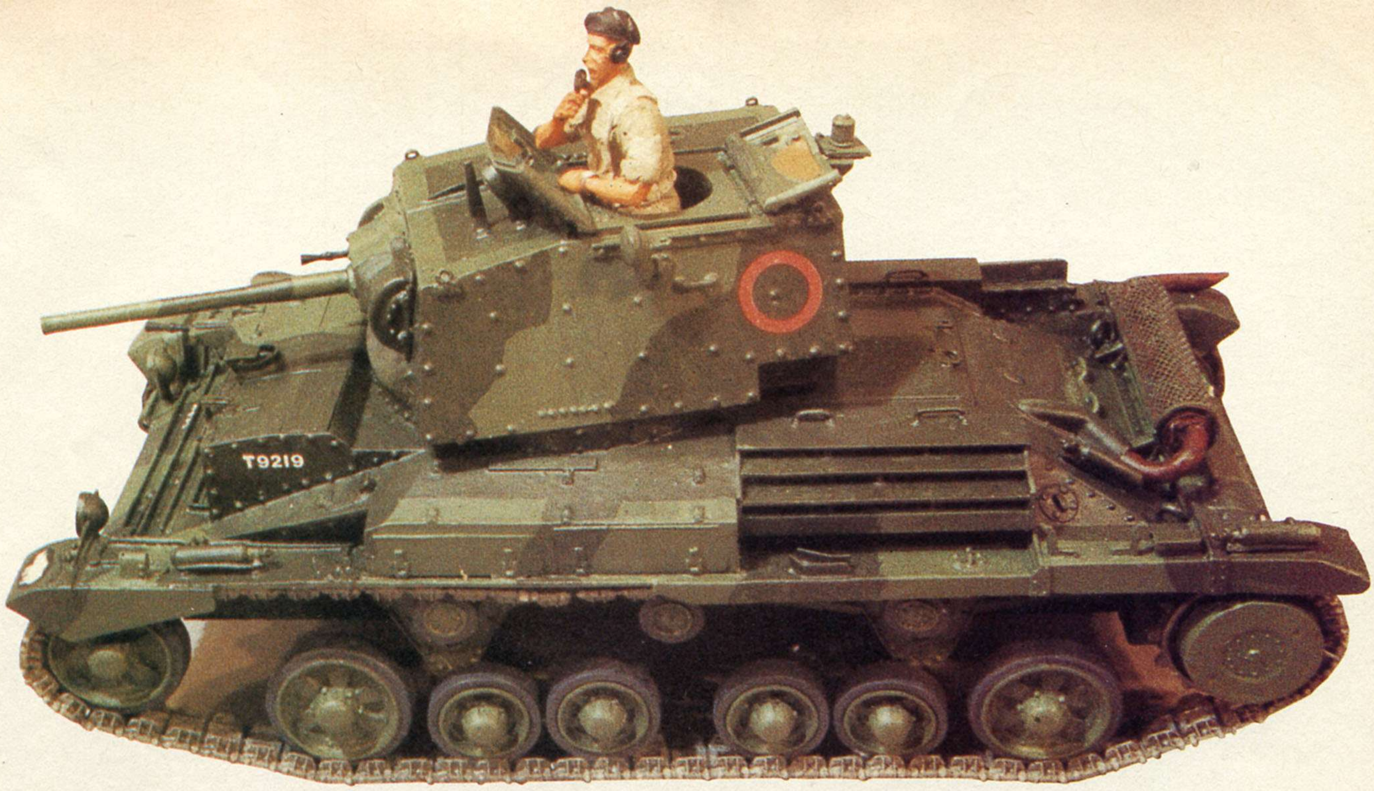
The turret

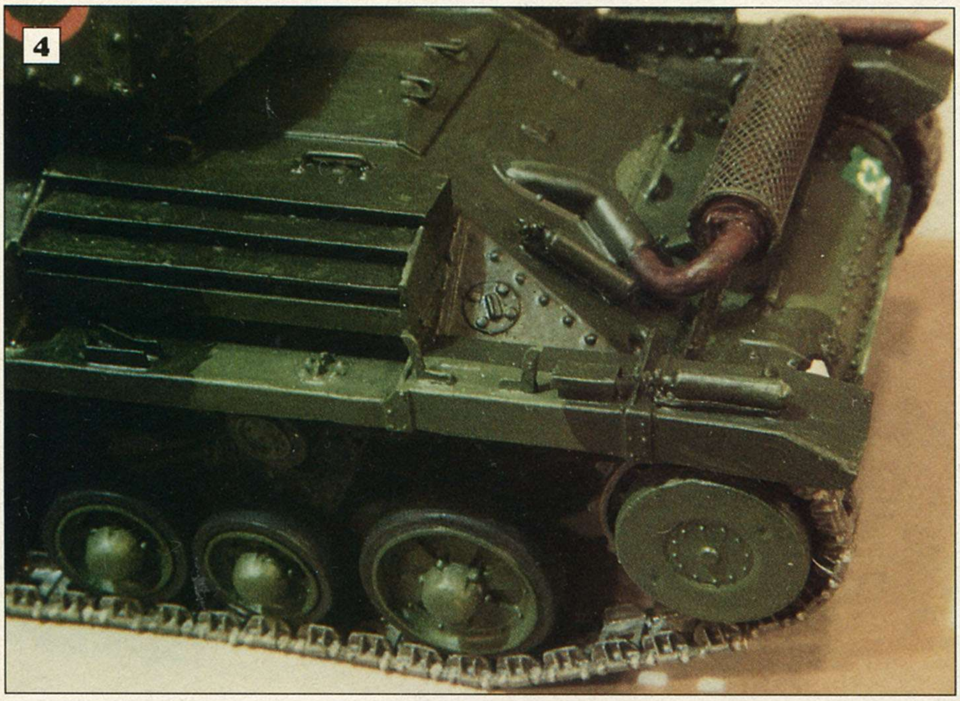
Cromwell has given you a very nice turret casting, complete with the stowage bins under its rear overhang, but it does need a little work because there's a large casting block in one corner. Use your chisel blade to slice this away, a bit at a time, until the turret floor can slip into place. You may need to trim the sides and aft end of the floor as well - mine was a little long and a fraction too wide but this is much better than it being too small!

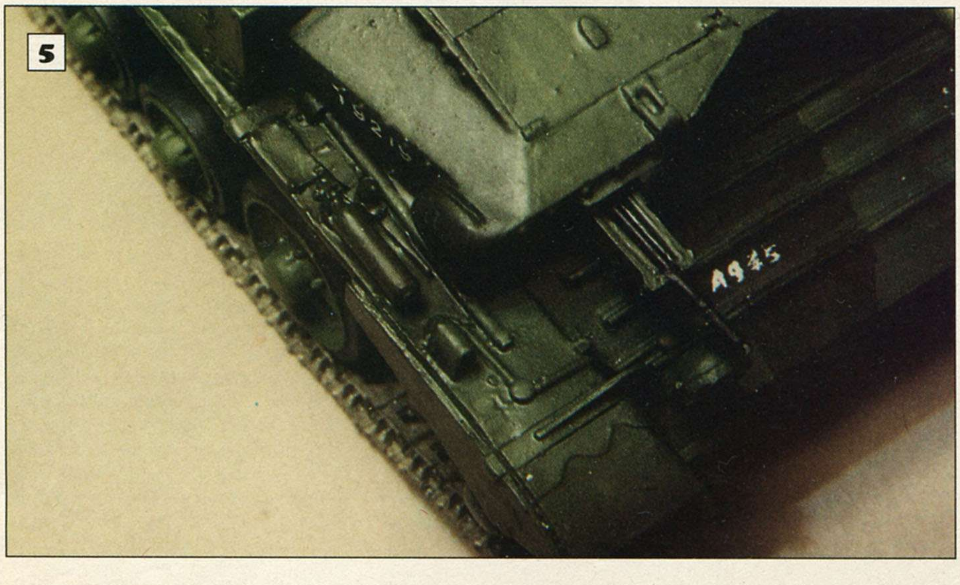
Cromwell has produced several versions of the gun mantlet in this kit. One type comes as two parts, the actual mantlet and its mount. The only thing you'll need to be careful of with this is to fit the parts the right way round - the flat edge of the mount goes at the top, with the semi-circular edge fitting into the cut-out in the turret-front reinforcement, and the visible hole in the mantlet is for the co-axial machine-gun and must go on the starboard side. A second version has these parts cast as a single piece, and a very few kits, unfortunately, have a single piece with the mantlet the wrong way round and the machine-gun hole to port. If you have one of these Cromwell will supply a correct replacement on request.

With the mantlet in place you can fit the gorgeous aluminium gun barrel. You may need to widen the hole in the mantlet for it to fit, but if you haven't got a suitably-sized drill bit the metal is soft enough to let you file its spigot to fit the hole.

The loader's hatch halves are a rather odd shape, and Cromwell has reproduced them perfectly. The only thing you need to watch out for is not to carefully trim their flat bases to follow all the round edges of their tops - only







4. Fittings on the port rear trackguard.
5. The pick head fits like this behind the starboard front fire extinguisher.

the hinged ends should be like that. Leave the unhinged ends square, so they fit together on the turret top without a gap each side.

The commander's hatch and other fittings give no trouble, but take care with the pivoted radio aerial mount on the back of the turret. There were several types of this mount, and Cromwell has given you the simplest. Fix the platform overhanging the ends of the mounts, as in my model photos. Cromwell give you the spring which held the platform steady, but it isn't shown in the instructions. Look on the casting trees for a long ribbed part - this is the spring, which fits between the centre of the aerial platform and the back of the turret below it.

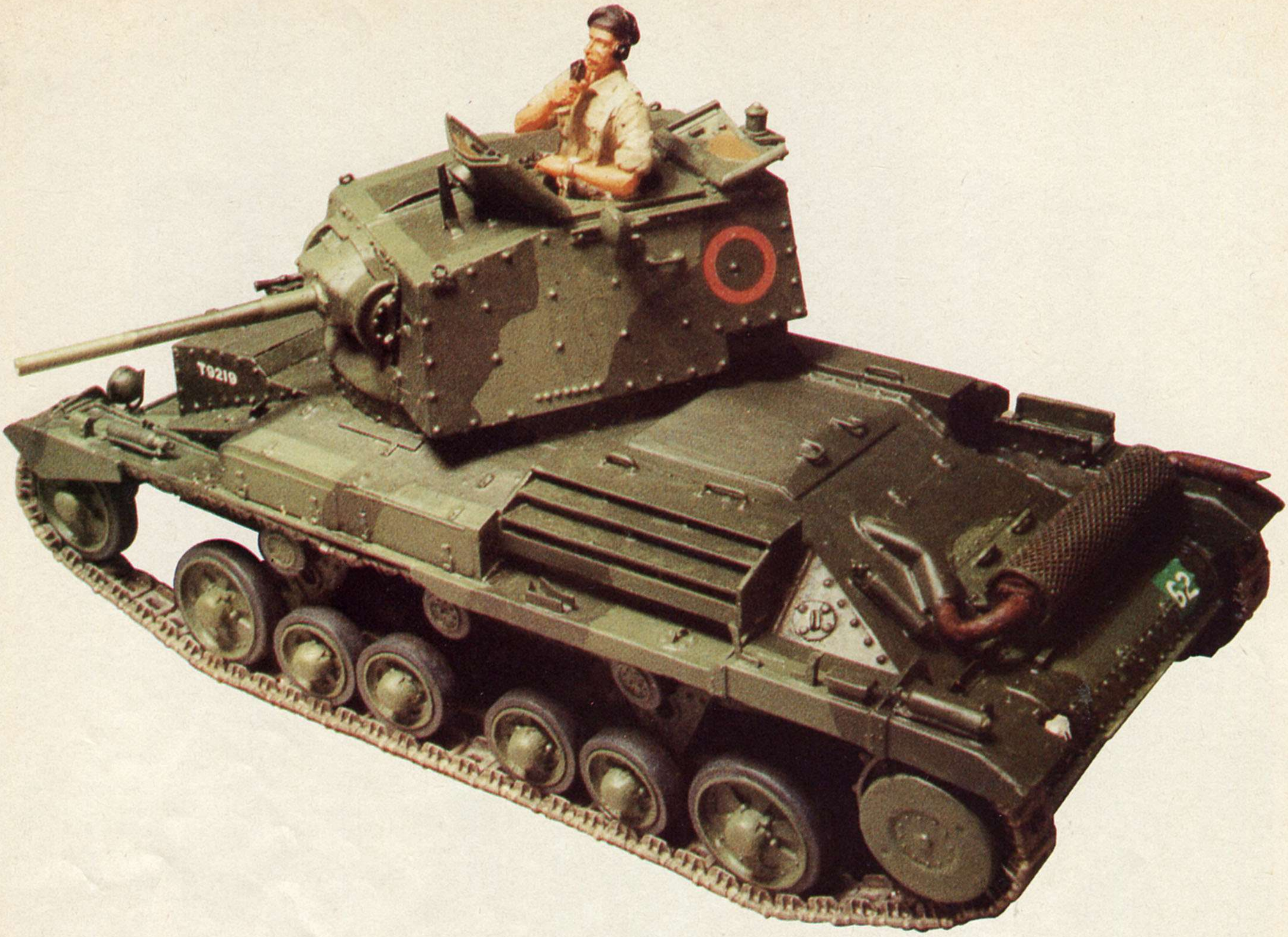
A splendid little commander figure comes with the kit. He's in rolled-up shirtsleeves, so I painted him as a 'Desert Rat' though he could just as well be painted in summer shirtsleeve order for the fall of France or in UK training.

Colours and markings

As I said at the beginning, you can choose from several colour schemes: mid and dark Bronze Green for the French campaign of 1940 or for a UK-based tank, or plain sand or one of the multi-coloured Desert camouflage schemes if you want to model an A10 in the Western Desert in 1941.

I chose something a bit different - mid and dark Bronze Green in the desert! This came about because reinforcements were urgently needed, so part of 1st Armoured Division was shipped to North Africa in October 1940 with its tanks still in their European colour scheme. A photograph of some of the tanks of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, still on the quayside after being unloaded from the ships, is on page 8 of Bryan Perrett's, *British Tanks in North Africa 1940 - 42* (Osprey Vanguard 23, 1981, ISBN 0-85045-421-2) if you want to order it from your local library.

The photograph shows a couple of rather interesting points. First, several of ▶



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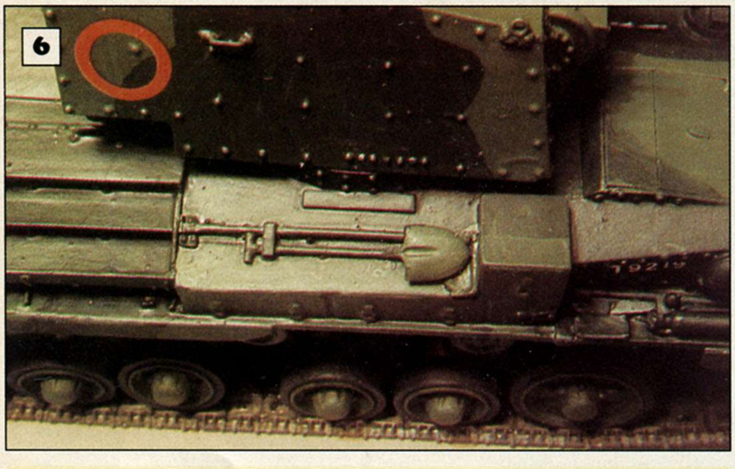

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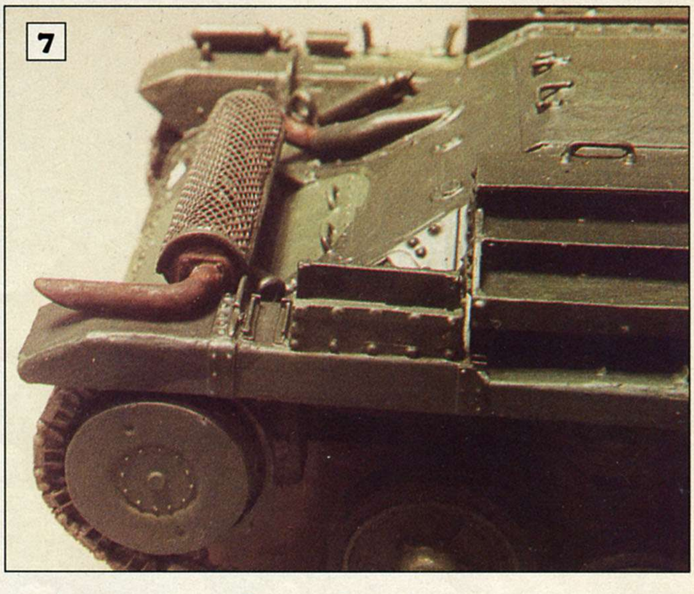


6. And the shovel head fits on its shaft here. 7. Note the different shape of the starboard end of the silencer - the pipes won't fit if you get it the wrong way round!

the tanks have straight lines between the two greens on the tops of their turrets and hulls. Painting instructions specified that most of the top surfaces was to be in the darker camouflage colour, and in most cases the painters sensibly followed the same rolling patterns that were seen on the sides of tanks. One individualist, however, seems to have like straight lines - which would be easily spotted from aircraft and destroyed the whole point of the camouflage!

The second point which made this tank irresistible to me was that one tank clearly shows the top of a two-digit unit code on its hull front. All published authorities I've seen are agreed that unit codes were single digits until some time in early 1941, but here's the proof that two digits were already used in Autumn 1940. Since the photo shows tanks of 2 RTR I applied the '62' known to be allotted to them by Spring 1941, as well as the 1st Armoured Division Rhino emblem, serial numbers and a chalked-on embarkation code.

Farewell

Ave Atque Vale as we Latin 'scholars' say, or 'hail and farewell'. Yes, I'm afraid this is the last part of the Tank Modelling Course and I hope you've enjoyed following it as much as I have writing it. I hope that it's been helpful even if you didn't want to build the models I used for my demonstrations. Although this is the formal end of the Course I'll still be around, so if there's anything else you want explained just write to the Editor and ask for it. Who knows, perhaps an occasional 'supplement' to the Course might appear? ■

SOLDIER BOX

For collectors of toy soldiers with Stuart Asquith

TOY SOLDIERS

ABOVE: Trophy Miniatures Wales Ltd, Unit 4, Vale Enterprise Centre, Hayes Road, Sully, Penarth, South Glamorgan CF64 5SY have added this set of the Garibaldi Guard (Ref ACW35) to their American Civil War range. BELOW: French Army staff at the turn of the century, taken from the large range of castings available from Dorset Soldiers and painted by Stuart Asquith.

ABOVE: Replicants produce limited production run 54mm figures in soft plastic. Their latest two releases are this Iroquois Indian and English Civil War musketeer, both painted here by Stuart Asquith.

Dorset Soldiers have added an unpainted casting of this jester turning cartwheels to their list of medieval subjects. This sample has been painted by your columnist.

Maxim Galloper Carriage

Richard Newth-Gibbs (59 Victor Close, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4XH) has produced a splendid model of a Maxim machine-gun mounted on a galloper carriage c.1890. This substantial model is supplied with two team horses and three figures. The figures can be supplied painted as the Life Guards, the Royal Horse Guards, the Royal Scots Greys, all dragoon regiments, the South Australia Defence Force Machine-Gun Corps, New South Wales Cavalry 1892 or the Essex Yeomanry. Painted and boxed, this substantial item retails at £110 plus 10% postage and packing.

The Jester

Dorset Soldiers (PO Box 2112, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 7YD) have added a jester turning cartwheels to their list of medieval subjects. Available as an unpainted item from Casting List S, No 14, the jester retails at £2.30.

ABOVE: Pax Britannica have added a painted set featuring The Royal Scots 1905 to their range. This is a private and sergeant from the set.

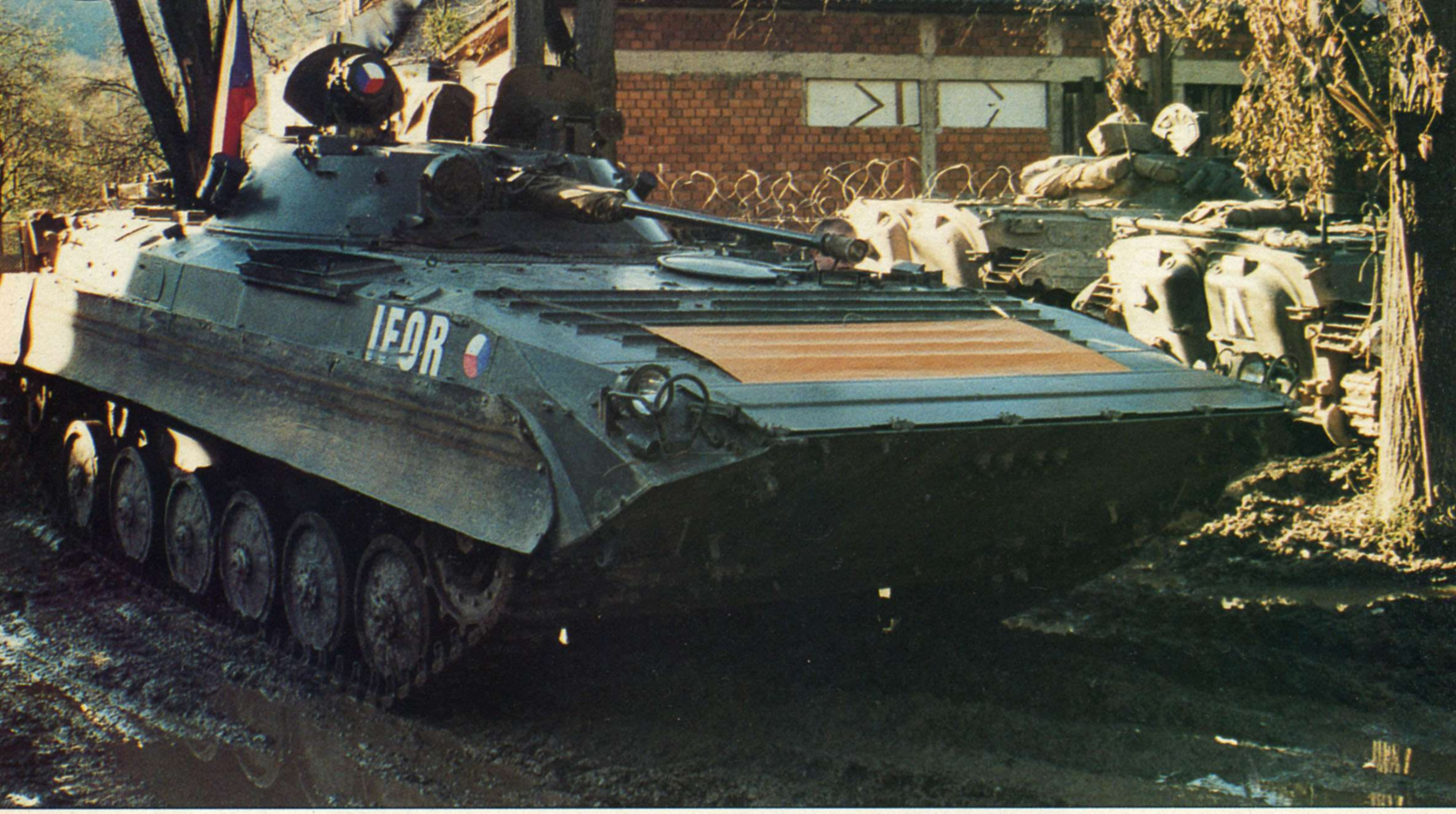
Replicants

Replicants (The Workshop, 164 High Street, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1XU) are a company producing limited production run 54mm figures in soft plastic. In keeping with their intention of providing collectors with unusual figures or periods, their latest two releases are an English Civil War musketeer (REP5) and an Iroquois Indian (REP6). The musketeer is depicted standing firing and comes with a separate plug-in right arm with musket. The Iroquois Indian is a scout wearing a captured 18th century military tunic. The detail on both figures is quite good and they paint up well enough. Each figure costs £1 and there are also packs of five musketeers plus extra heads in morion helmets and stocking caps for £5. The minimum order is £5, with 10% UK postage and packing, 20% overseas. Payment by cheque or postal order (not credit card), payable to P. Sole.

Pax Britannica

Pax Britannica (Tharn Cottage, 67 Malcolm Road, Peterculter, Aberdeen AB1 0XB) have added a set featuring The Royal Scots 1905 to their range. The set (Pax/8) consists of an officer, a sergeant and four privates marching in greatcoat order and retails at £36. ■

Also new from Trophy Miniatures Wales Ltd., is this striking figure of Prince Dabulamanzi kaMpande (Ref ZS51) from their Zulu War series.

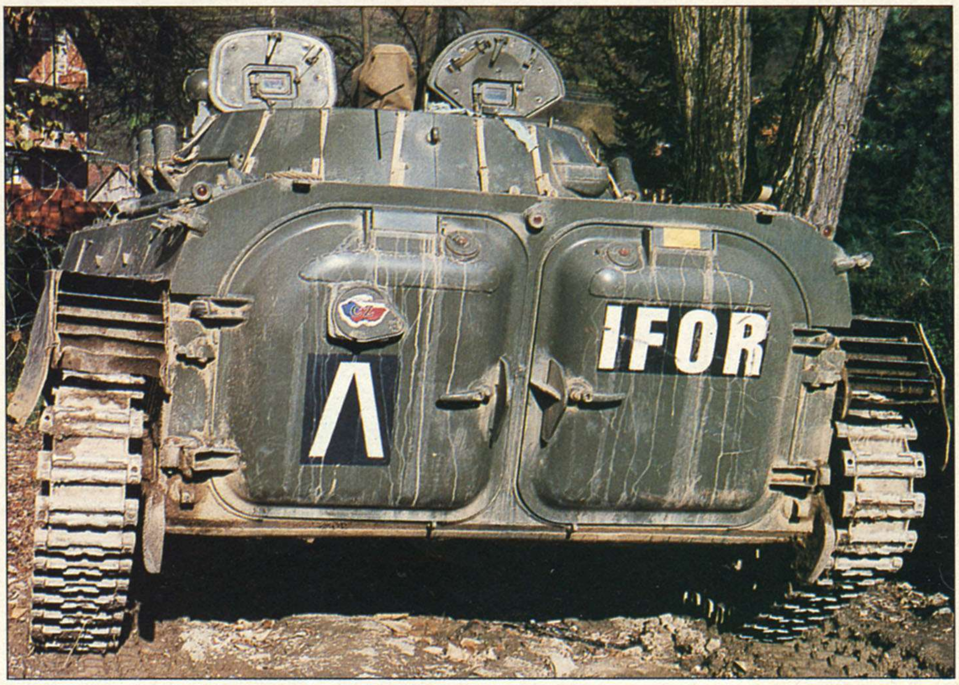


Czech BVP-2 with IFOR orange recognition panel on the engine deck. Note the roundel on the commander's hatch. The rubber skirts are 'field fitted' replacements.

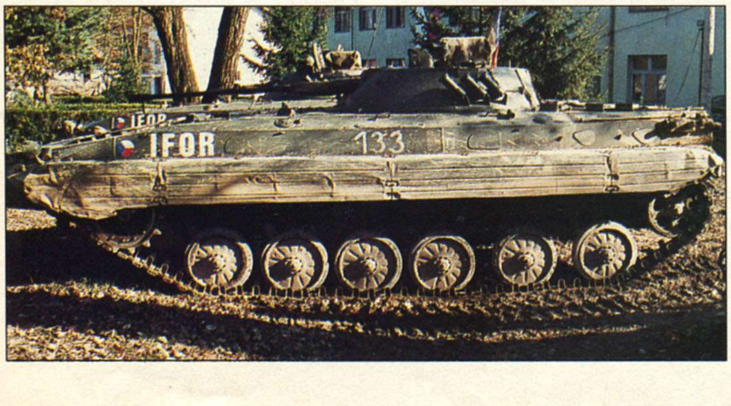
IFOR

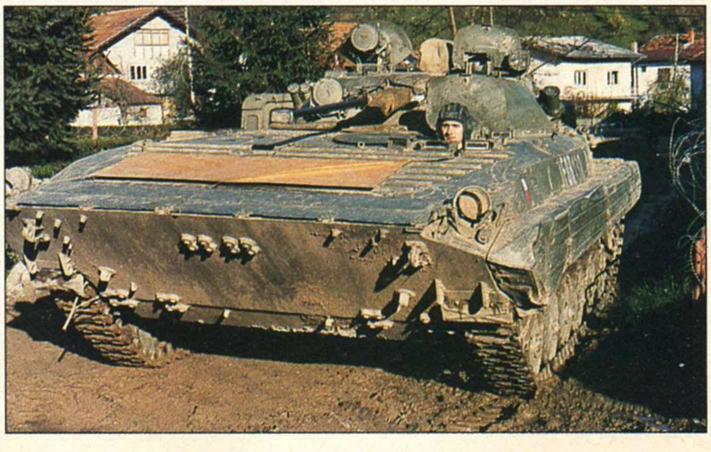
Armour in Bosnia

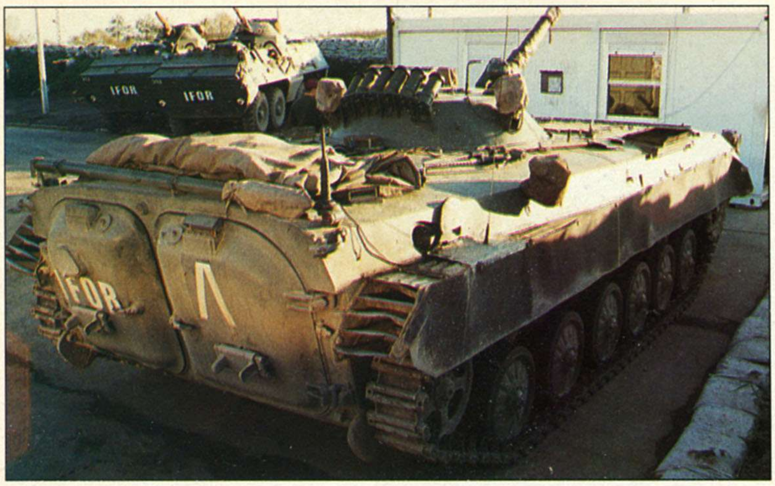
Richard Stickland continues the photographic essay he began last month on the armoured vehicles in service with the International Force featuring those of the Czech Republic and Canadian Army

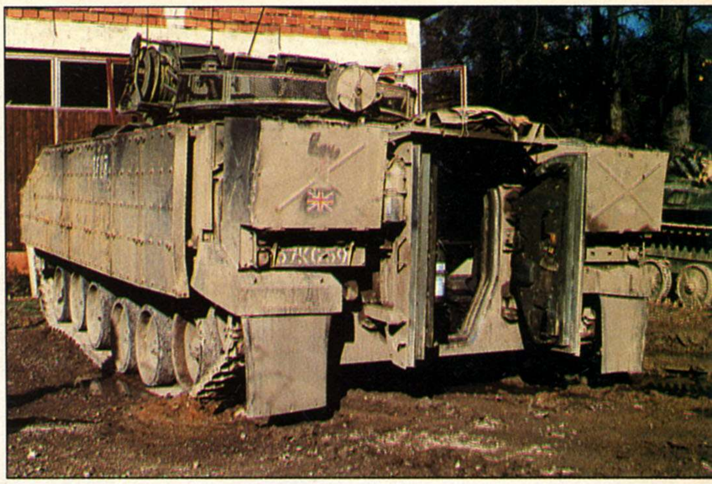


ABOVE RIGHT: The rear end of an 'A' Company BVP-2 of the 6th Mechanised Battalion at Stari Majdan. Note rubber sheeting replaces the factory fitted track guards lost in the Bosnian countryside. The marking over the inverted 'V' is a map of the Czech Republic in red white and blue national colours with the letters CZ in black outlined white superimposed. BELOW LEFT: One of the Czech 6th Mechanised Battalion's BVP-2 at Starti Majdan. The number '133' indicates 'A' Company, 3rd Platoon, 3rd Squad. The roundel is in the Czech Republic's national colours. BELOW RIGHT: BVP-2 (Czech built BMP-2) of Czech 6th Mechanised Battalion in the former school yard at Stari Majdan, Republika Srpska. The IFOR orange recognition panel is carried on the bow.

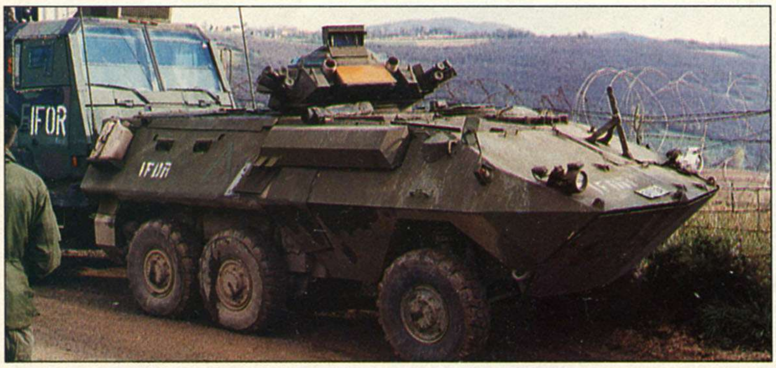


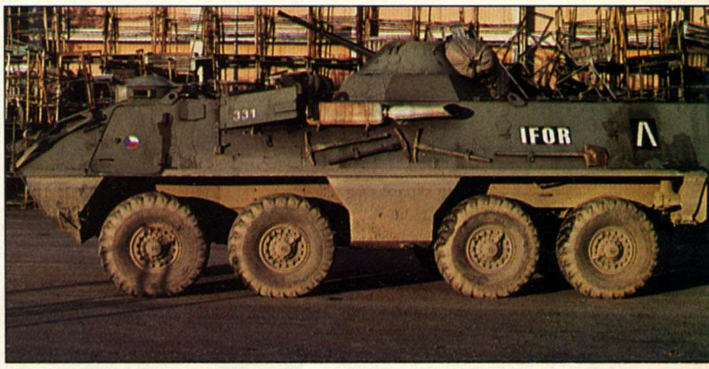




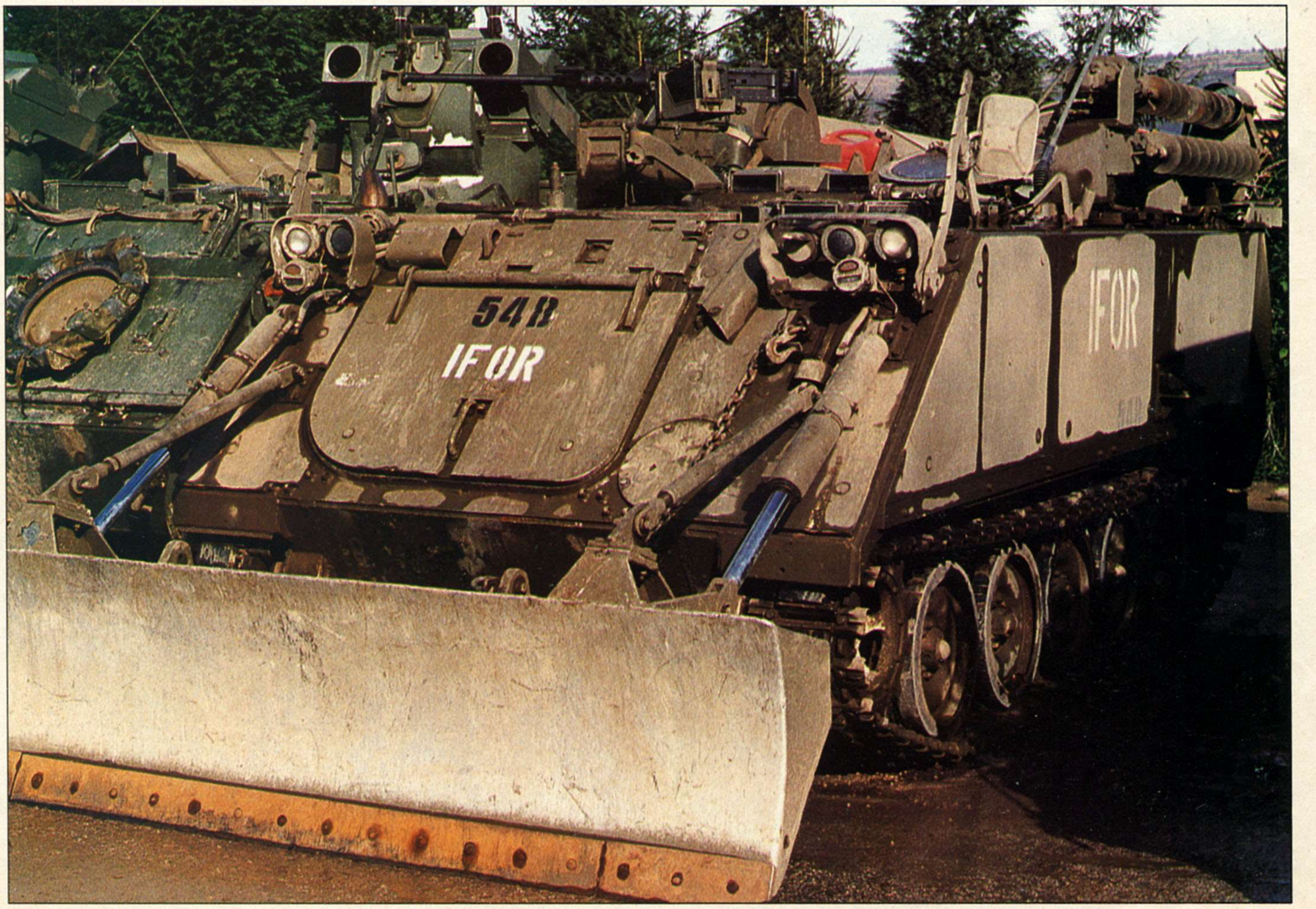


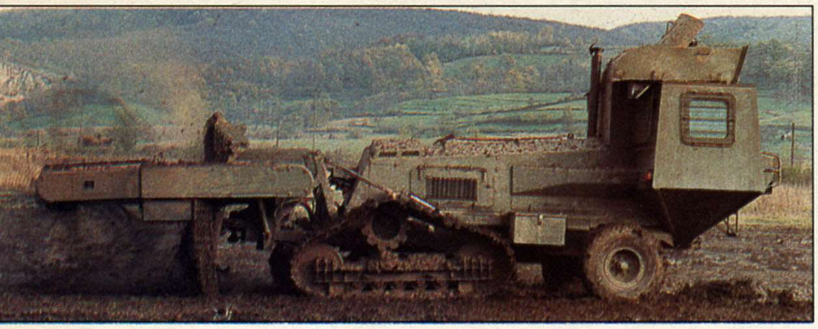
ABOVE LEFT: A BPzV (Czech designation for BMP-1K) of 'C' Company Czech 6th Mechanised Battalion at Brezicani.
ABOVE RIGHT: British Warrior Artillery Observation Post vehicle of 1st Royal Horse Artillery attached to the Czech 6th Mechanised Battalion. This vehicle carried a Czech roundel on the right side and a 'Union Jack' (left rear bin) and a Czech Republic flag just visible on the original print on the right bin.

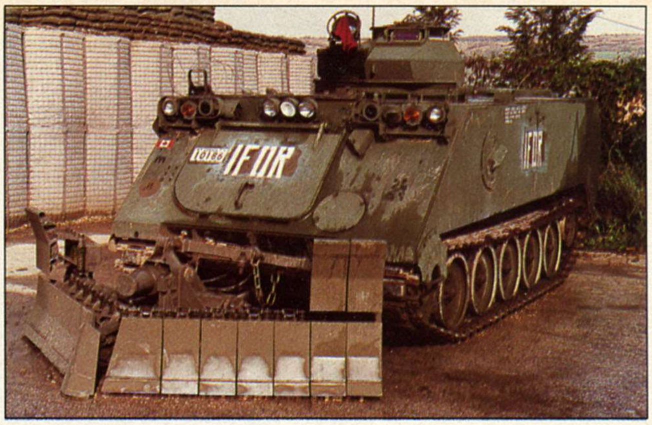




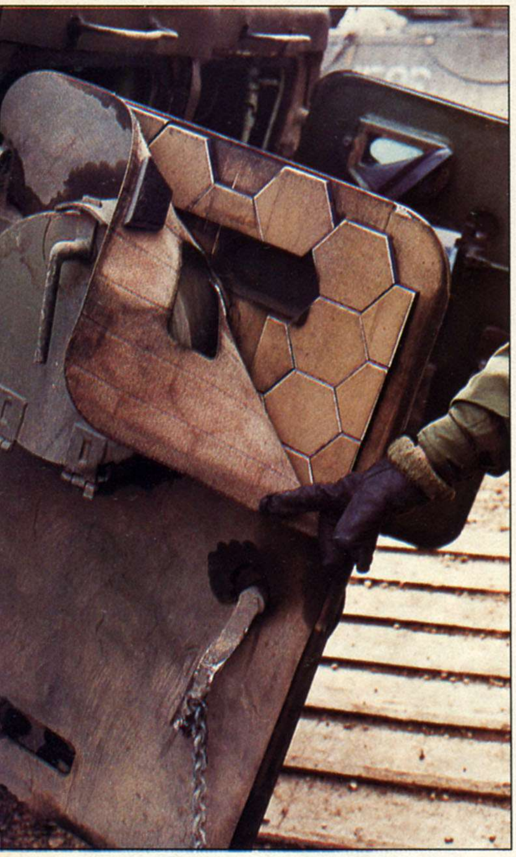
ABOVE LEFT: Up-armoured Canadian Grizzly (WAPC) without armament. Note the appliqué armour is applied only to the outside of crew and troop compartments. A wire cutter is carried on the bow and an IFOR orange recognition panel on the turret. The vehicle belongs to Compagnie B, 1 Bataillon, Royal 22e Regiment (French Canadians). ABOVE RIGHT: OT-64 C(1) of C Company, 6th Mechanised Battalion. Marked 331 for 'C' Company, 3rd Platoon, 1st Squad. BELOW: M113A2 EVSEV at Camp Maple Leaf, Zgon.



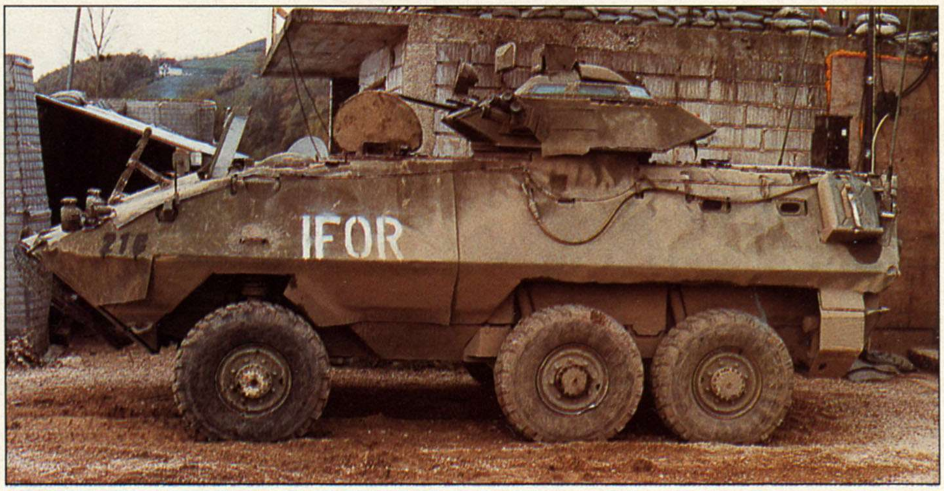




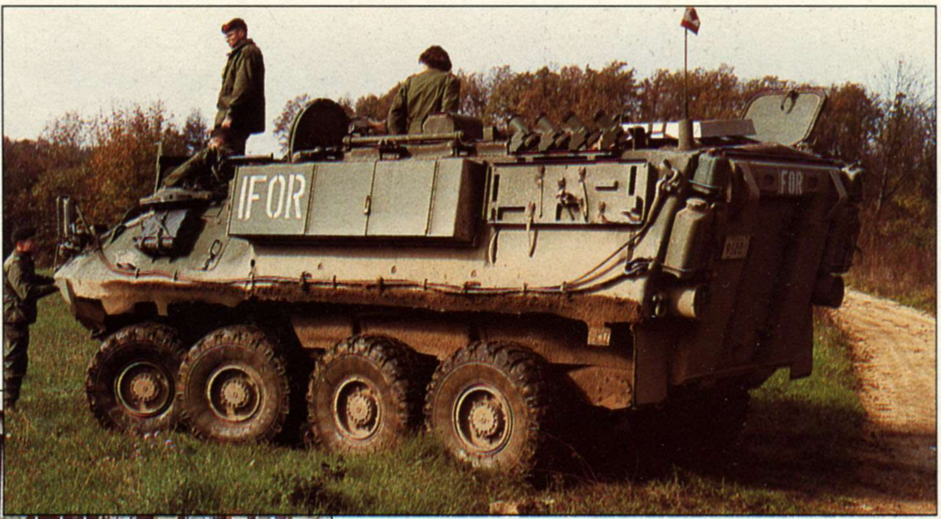
ABOVE LEFT: The Aardvark Mark 1 mine clearing flail is built in Scotland and seen here on trial with Canadian Engineers at Zgon.
ABOVE RIGHT: M113A2 DAAREOD on trial in Bosnia for clearing mines from roads.

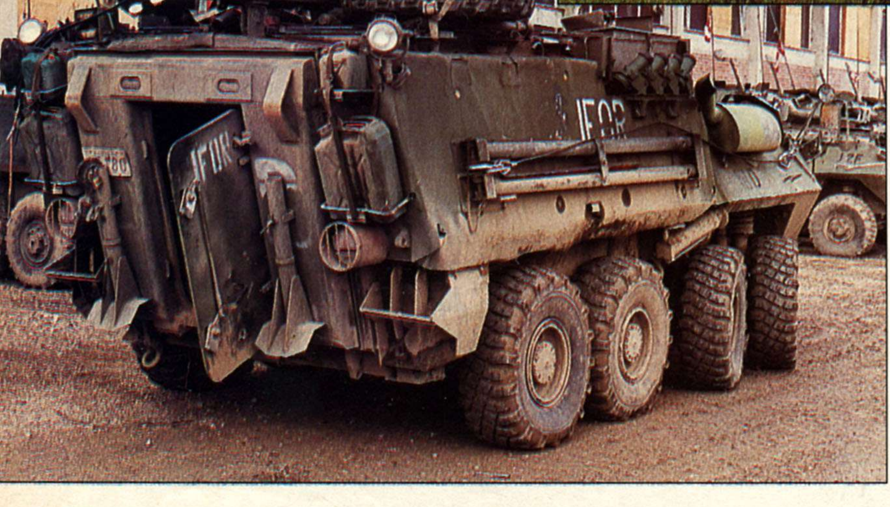


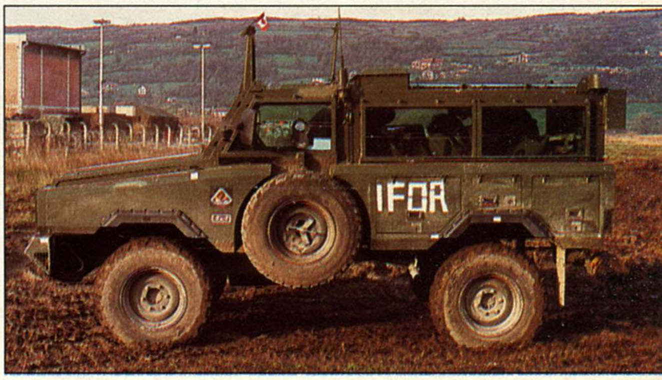
ABOVE: Detail of the appliqué armour on a Cougar (WFSV) which consists of ceramic tiles sandwiched between vinyl sheets and secured with Velcro.



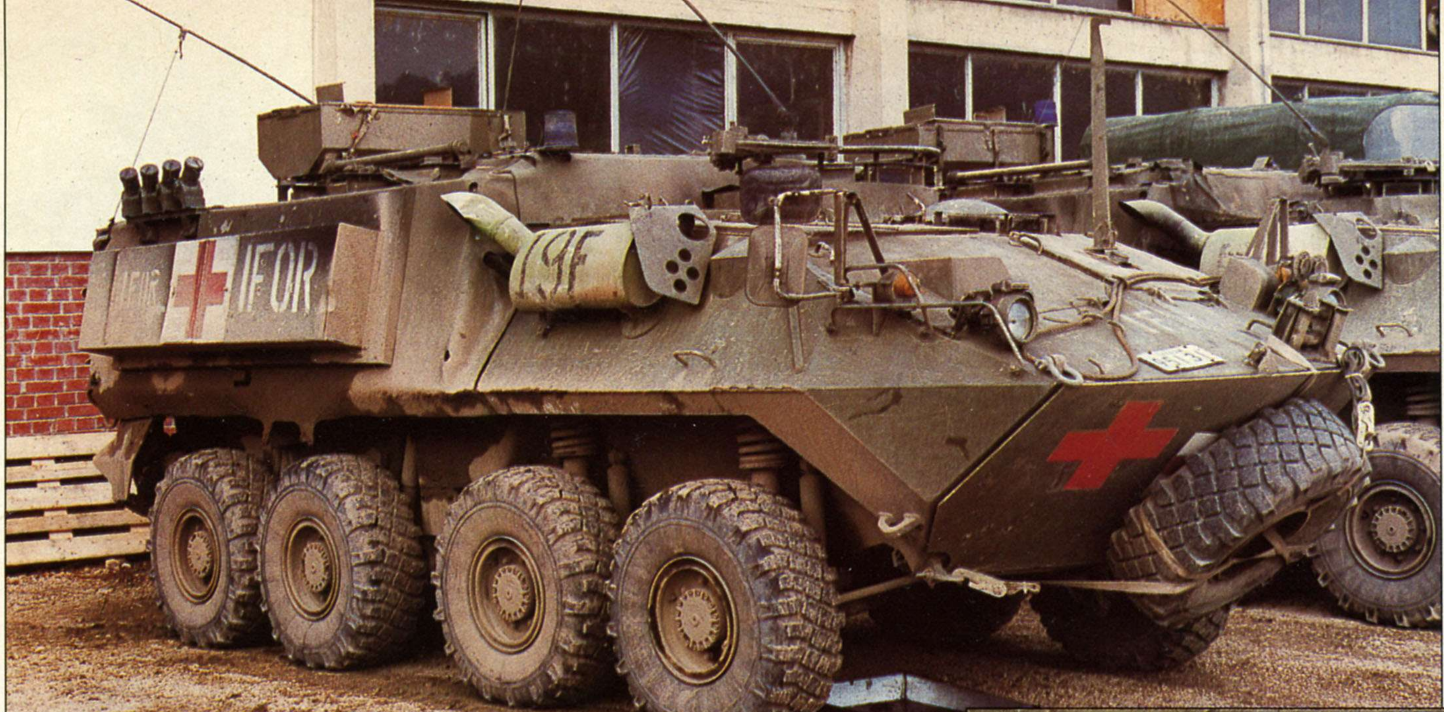
ABOVE: A Grizzly (WAPC) at Minstrel Boy check point on Route Bluebird. The side of the vehicle is clad with appliqué armour. BELOW: Bison 81mm Mortar FSV out on patrol. Note the appliqué armour hanging off the side over the wheels.

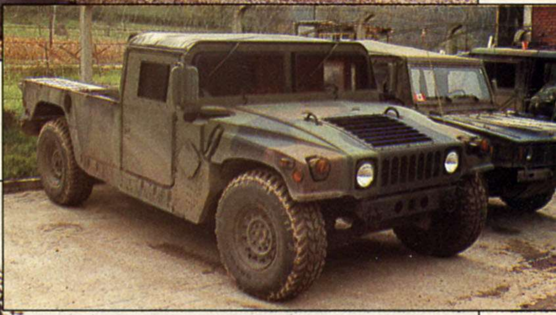




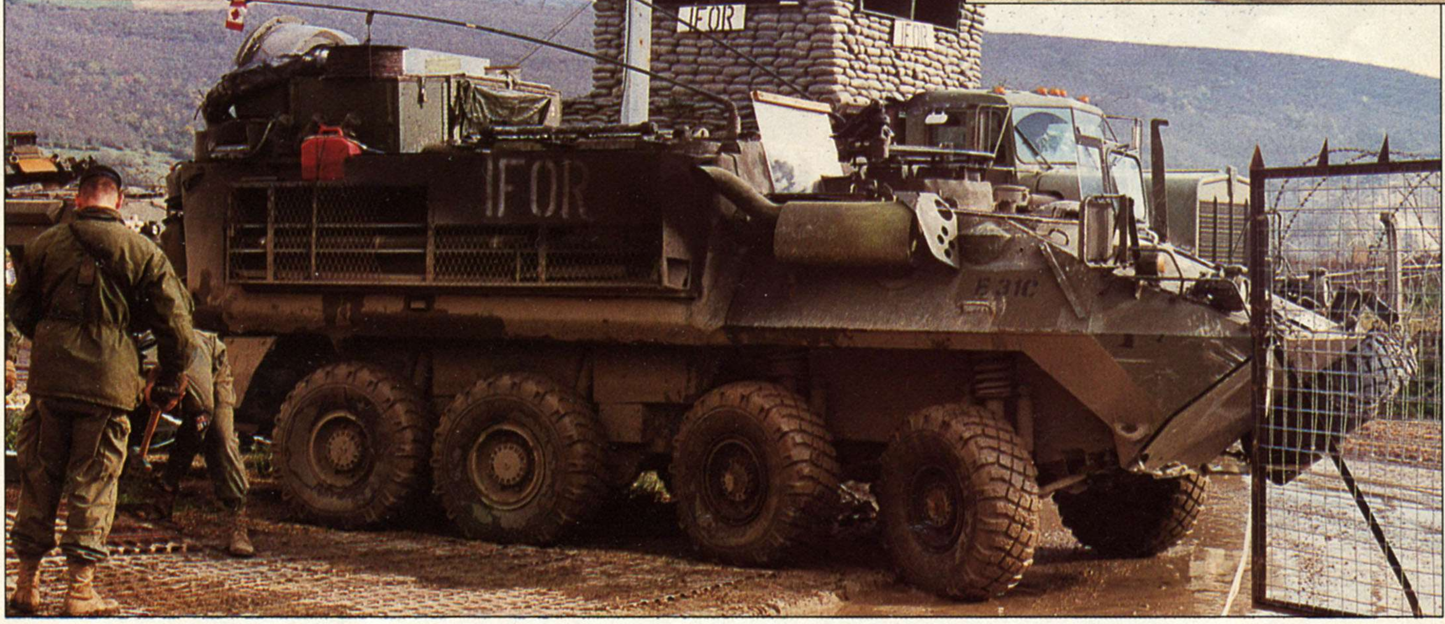


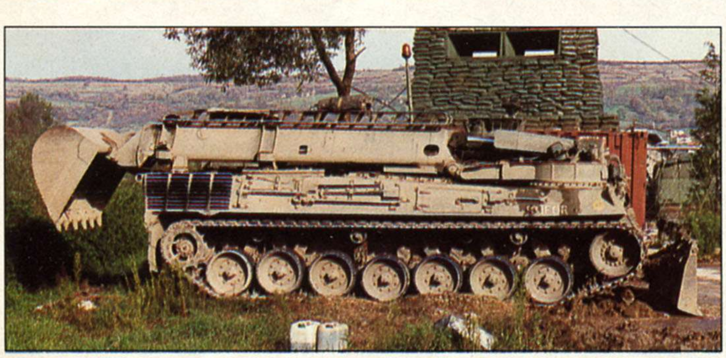
ABOVE: South African built Mamba Mark 2 on trial with Canadian EOD. LEFT: Up-armoured Bison MRTV at Camp Maple Leaf in Zgon.

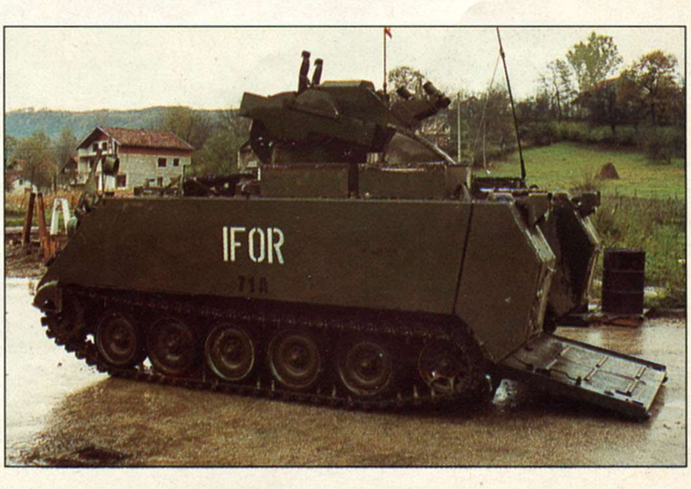




ABOVE: Bison Ambulance at Camp Maple Leaf in service with 1 Bataillon Royal 22e Regiment.
BELOW: Canadian Army Bison Engineers Vehicle of Compagnie B, 1 Bataillon Royal 22e Regiment.
RIGHT: A US Army Armoured Hummer visiting camp Maple Leaf. The Canadian Army will shortly be taking delivery of their own Hummers.



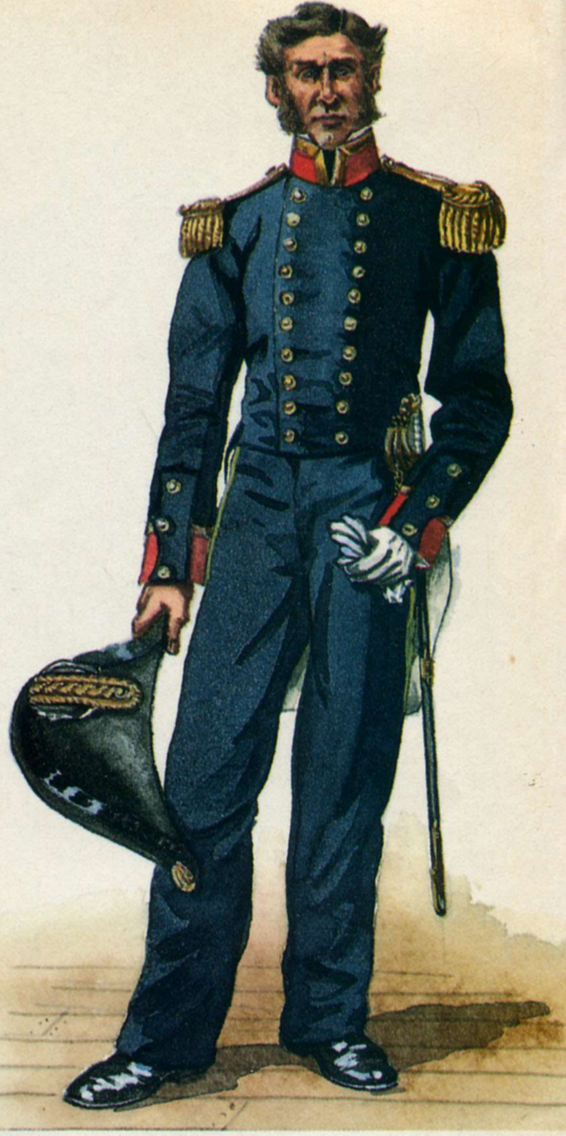




ABOVE: A Canadian Army Badger AEV at Camp Maple Leaf, Zgon.
RIGHT: M113A2 TUA (TOW Under Armour) from the Anti-tank Section, Tactical Support Platoon, Campagnie B, 1 Bataillon, Royal 22e Regiment, Canadian Army. The turret is licence built in Canada by Linamar.

Britain's 'Red' Navy

In his short reign of seven years King William IV changed the uniform colours of Britain's armed forces - red being the most favoured colour which even extended to the replacement of the Royal Navy's white facings. Bob Marrion with the aid of contemporary official Royal Navy memoranda illustrates the appearance of the uniforms from this almost forgotten period



Commander, Full Dress, 1832. At this time the sword was worn suspended from a shoulder belt worn beneath the coat until July, 1832 when it was ordered to be carried suspended from a waist-belt and slings. The uniforms of commodores were similar to that of a Commander, but with the addition of a silver anchor worn on each epaulette, extra bullions on the cockade loop and the cocked hat itself was bound with gold lace rather than black silk,

The uniforms of the Royal Navy is a subject which does not appear to be held dear by the military modeller, other than those of the Nelsonian era. However, the subject does give much scope to the modeller should he, or she, wish to research the subject further.

In 1825, the first Uniform Regulations for the fleet were issued, the old Full Dress of the Napoleonic Navy being abolished two years later with knee breeches and hose being restricted to the confines of the Drawing Room only. All officers were to wear the cocked hat fore and aft for all orders of dress. Dress coats were to be fashioned with a white standing 'Prussian' collar. For 'undress', coats were fashioned with a stand and fall collar with lapels buttoning across the chest; netherwear was to be blue pantaloons worn with half-boots worn with a black round hat when at sea. Blue or white pantaloons were optional for junior officers. In 1827, the undress coat collar was changed to the 'Prussian' standing form, the colour being changed from white to blue,

A remarkable change came about vide Admiralty Office Memorandum of the 10th July 1830 which altered the old traditional white facings to scarlet, which lasted until 1843 when Admiralty Office Order of the 30th June laid down that the scarlet facings be reverted once again to white:-

MEMORANDUM

Admiralty Office 10th July, 1830
His Majesty has been pleased to command that the Collars and Cuffs of the Uniform Coats of the Commissioned Officers of the Navy shall in future be scarlet instead of white; and that three buttons be placed under each of the pocket-flaps; and also, that in future, no gold lace shall be worn on the Trowsers *(sic)*; and further, that so much of the Order of the 18th December, 1827, as directs that Officers shall wear white Breeches with white sword-belts, at the King's or Queen's Drawing Rooms, be annulled.
By Command of their Lordships,
J.W. Croker

A further series of Admiralty Office Orders over the next 18 months affected the trousers worn by officers, as follows:-

Admiralty-Office, 27th November, 1830
His Majesty has been pleased to annul, with regard to Flag Officers, so much of the Regulation of the 10th July, 1830, with respect to Uniforms, as prohibits the wearing of gold lace on the Trowsers; and all Flag Officers (but no others) are in future to wear the said gold lace on their Trowsers as prior to the said Order of July 10th, 1830.
By Command of their Lordships
J.W. Croker

MEMORANDUM

Admiralty Office, 20th September, 1831
Doubts appearing to be entertained on the subject of the Uniform Trowsers directed to be worn by the Officers of His Majesty's Fleet, His Majesty has been graciously pleased to command:

That on all occasions of Full Dress, Officers shall wear White Trowsers over boots between the 1st of May and the 14th of October, and Blue Trowsers between the 15th of October and the 30th of April.

That whenever Blue Trowsers are worn, those of Flag Officers (but no other) shall have Gold Lace of the same width as that of their Coat down the outside seams.

In undress, Blue Trowsers are to be worn; but Officers are at liberty, in warm climates, or on the home station in the Summer months, to wear White Russia Duck Trowsers.
George Elliot

MEMORANDUM

Admiralty Office, 19th October 1831
With reference to that part of "Memorandum" dated the 20th September last, which relates to Blue Trowsers, His Majesty has been pleased to command that the Officers of the Royal Navy shall, in future, wear Gold Lace upon their Blue Trowsers, (as directed in His late Majesty's Order of the 18th December, 1827,) except upon ordinary occasions, when they are at liberty to wear them without Lace as heretofore.

And His Majesty is pleased further to command that no other Sword be worn than that established by the said Order of the 18th December, 1827.
By Command of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty,
John Barrow

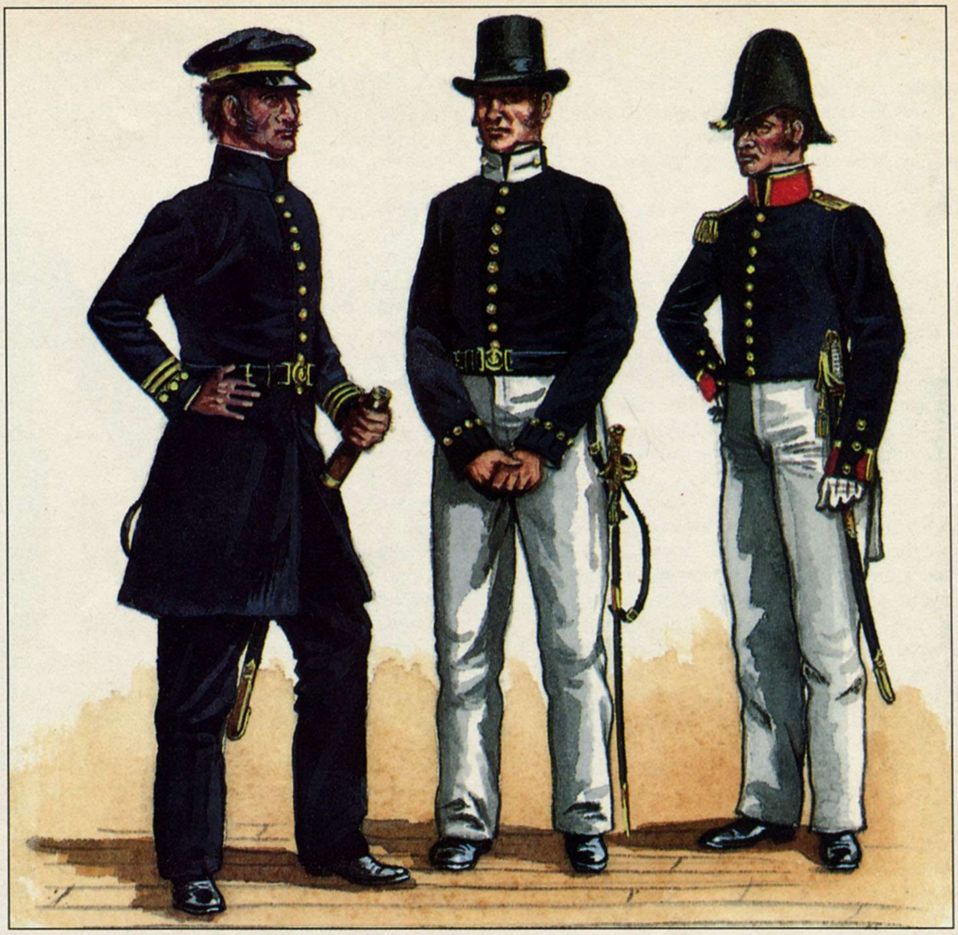
By March 1832, fully detailed regulations had been laid down, quickly followed by an update in May of that year.

Admiralty Office, March 20th, 1832
Description of the Uniform which, in pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure, is to be worn by Officers in the Royal Navy
Admiral of the Fleet
Coat - Blue cloth, with a scarlet cloth stand-up collar, with two-inch lace round the top and front; a slashed sleeve with blue three-pointed flap and three buttons and holes; a scarlet cuff with two-inch lace, of the Navy pattern, round the top and down the front edge; pocket flaps with three points, and a button under each point; the body of the coat lined with the same cloth, and the skirts lined with white kerseymere; two rows of buttons in the front, ten buttons in each row; the two rows to be three inches apart from the front edge of the button-hole to the centre of the button; the skirt to begin at one sixth of the circumference from the front edge, two buttons on the hips, and two buttons on the bottom of the plait; the button to be raised, gilt, one inch in diameter, indented with a round rim, and within the rim an anchor and a cable, and a crown over between two wreaths of laurel; two gold epaulettes and a crescent, and edging to the strap, with silver anchor and crown and three silver stars on the crescent and one star above.
Waistcoat - single breasted, white cloth or kerseymere, with buttons half-inch diameter, of the same pattern as the coat.
Trowsers - blue cloth, with gold lace of the same width as that on the coat down the out-

side seam,
Cravat or Stock - black silk,
Hat - cocked; the flaps ten inches in the back, eight and a half inches in the front, six inches at each corner; bound with gold lace, two and a half inches wide, showing one inch and a quarter on each side, with a black silk cockade six inches wide; looped with six gold bullions, three and a half eighth of inches wide, and the two centre twisted with a button of the same size and pattern as the coat, and tassels, with five gold and five blue bullions each.

The Sword, Belt and Knot

Hilt - solid, half basket guard, with raised bars and crown and anchor badge, lion head back piece, white fish-skin grip, bound with three gilt wires; outside length, five inches and three quarters; inside length, four inches and a half.
Blade - slightly curved, with a round back, thirty-one inches and a quarter long, one inch and three eighths wide at the shoulder, with a double-edged spear point.
Scabbard - black leather, top locket plain, four inches long, with plain broad hook, threaded chape six inches long, horse shoe bottom; the hilt and mountings of brass, lacquered.
Belt - black patent leather frog shoulder belt, two inches and a quarter wide, with brass regulating buckle and loop, to be worn under the waistcoat.
Knot - blue and gold rope, twenty-three inches long, with ditto ditto velum basket-work head, and twelve gold bullions, a piece of the same sort of cord, fourteen inches and three quarters long, is fixed to the hilt to which the knot is affixed.



Left Captain, shipboard undress, 1834. Centre Midshipman, shipboard undress, 1834. Right Master, summer full dress 1834. The coats of Masters and below were single breasted.

Admirals. The same as the foregoing, but with three stars only on the epaulettes.
Vice Admirals. The same, with two stars on the epaulettes.
Rear Admirals. The same, with one star on the epaulettes.
Commodores of the First Class, Captains of the Fleet when not Officers, and First Captains of Ships. The same, but with the epaulettes of Captains above three years standing.
Captains. The same, but the lace on the collar and cuff to be one and a half inch wide, and the button to be without the laurel leaf; the epaulettes of those of three years standing to have a single anchor and crown, and of those under three years standing to have the anchor alone. The hats the same, but bound with black silk instead of gold lace, looped with four gold bullions, the two centre twisted.
Commanders. The same as Captains, but their epaulettes are to be without either crown or anchor.
Lieutenants. The same, with the lace one inch wide, and one epaulette on the right shoulder, of the same description as Commanders, and a strap on the left shoulder similar to the strap of the epaulette. The loop of the hat to be of two gold bullions twisted.
Master of the Fleet. The same as Commanders, but the coat to be single-breasted at angles with the skirts. Gold lace on coats and trowsers of the same width as Commanders; and buttons, cocked-hat, sword, and sword-knots also the same as Commanders.
Physician. The same, but with nine buttons on the fronts, to be placed three and three.
Secretaries to Commanders-in-Chief. The same, but with eight buttons in the front, to be placed two and two.
Secretaries to Junior Flag Officers. The same Uniform as Pursers, or the Uniform of the Rank which they hold.
Masters. The same as Lieutenants, but the coat to be single- breasted at angles with the skirts. Gold lace on coats and trowsers of the same width as Lieutenant; and buttons, cocked-hats, swords, and sword-knots also the same as Lieutenants.
Surgeons. The same as Masters, but with nine buttons on the front, to be placed three and three.
Pursers. The same as Masters, but with eight buttons on the front, to be placed two and two.
Second Masters. The same as Masters, but without epaulettes, or gold lace on the trowsers. The lace on the Coats to be three-quarters of an inch wide.
Assistant Surgeons. The same as Surgeons, but without epaulettes, or gold lace on the trowsers. The lace on the Coats to be three-quarters of an inch wide.
Captain's Clerks; and Clerks to Secretaries. The same as Pursers, but without epaulettes, or gold lace on the trowsers. The lace on the Coats to be three-quarters of an inch wide.
Undress Coats, Trowsers, Great Coats, and Cloaks. All Officers are to wear as undress a short blue single-breasted great coat, with a stand-up collar; Second Masters, Assistant Surgeons, Clerks, Mates, and Midshipmen wearing such coats, are to be distinguished by one row of gold twist on each cuff; Lieutenants, by one row of gold lace, a quarter or an inch wide, on each cuff; Commanders, by two rows of such lace on each cuff; and Captains, by three rows of such lace on each cuff.

If Flag Officers shall, under similar circumstances, think proper to wear coats of the same description in lieu of the proper uniform, they are to wear their proper epaulettes upon it.

All undress coats and great coats to have the appropriate button of rank of the respective Officers, which is to be placed according to regulation.

All Officers may wear in undress at sea, a round jacket without skirts, with their appropriate buttons, and a round black hat, with a narrow black silk band and a black buckle, and a black silk or leather cockade, with a loop of the same material and half the width of the lace of their respective coats, or if they have no lace on their coats, of black silk ribbon (except Midshipmen, Masters' Assistants, and Volunteers, who are to have a loop of gold twist, as before stated); or a blue cloth cap, with a band round it, of half the width and material of the lace of their coats; Officers who have no lace to their coats, who now wear gold bands, may have a band of gold lace, half an inch wide, round their caps; other Officers are to wear such bands as at present.

On all occasions of Full Dress, Officers shall wear white Trowsers over boots between the 1st of May and the 14th of October, and Blue Trowsers between the 15th of October and the 30th of April.

Whenever Blue Trowsers are worn in full dress, those of Commissioned Officers shall have Gold Lace of the same width as that of their Coat down the outside seams.

In undress, Blue Trowsers are to be worn without Lace; but Officers are at liberty, in warm climates, or on the home station in the Summer months, to wear White Russia Duck Trowsers

The uniform cloaks and great coats of the Royal Navy are to be blue, lined (when lined) with blue or white.

Patterns or drawings of each of the before-mentioned articles of dress are to be seen at this Office, and at the Office of ▶

each Port Admiral.

Articles of Uniform, which have been made of a different pattern from the foregoing, may be worn till the 1st of April, 1833, but no longer.

Mates. - Coat - Blue cloth, lined with white serge, edged with white cloth, stand-up collar with a button and button-hole of one quarter inch wide, gold lace on each aide of the collar; single breasted at angles with the skirts; blue round cuffs and pocket, with corresponding blue twist button-holes, and three buttons in the folds of the skirts. - Buttons, waistcoat, Cravat or Stock, Buckles, Hat, and Sword.- To be the same as Lieutenants.

Gunners, Boatswains, and Carpenters. - Coat - Blue cloth; if lined, to be with serge, fall-down collar, blue lapels to button across, and round cuffs; nine buttons on the lapels, and three on each cuff and pocket, with corresponding blue twist button-holes, and three buttons in the folds of the skirts, Plain gilt buttons, with an anchor and cable engraved thereon. - **Waistcoat** - White. - **Cravat or Stock** - Black. - **Hat** - Cocked, bound, and looped with black silk. - **Sword** - Of the same pattern and length as Commissioned Officers, but the back-piece of the handle is to be plain, with a flute round the top and down the back; with a black fish-skin grip bound with three gold wires; the etchings on the blade not blued or gilt. - **Sword knot** - Of blue silk, mixed with gold fringe, but no bullions. - **Sword Belt** -Blue silk or black leather, same size and shape as Commissioned Officers.

Midshipmen. The same as Mates, with a white turn-back on each side of the collar, but the coat not to be edged with white, nor to have the gold button-hole. - **Swords** - Of the same pattern as Lieutenants, but of such length as may be convenient.

Volunteers of the First Class. The same as Midshipmen, but instead of the White turn-back, a button-hole of white twist on the collar, with a corresponding button, and to wear dirks instead of swords.

Masters' Assistants and Volunteers of the Second Class. The same uniform as Volunteers of the First Class, and the button-hole on the collar to be blue twist.

By Command of their Lordships,

George Elliot

Admiralty, 17th May 1832

Description of the Uniform which, in pursuance of His Majesty's Pleasure, is to be worn by Officers in the Royal Navy.

Admiral of the Fleet

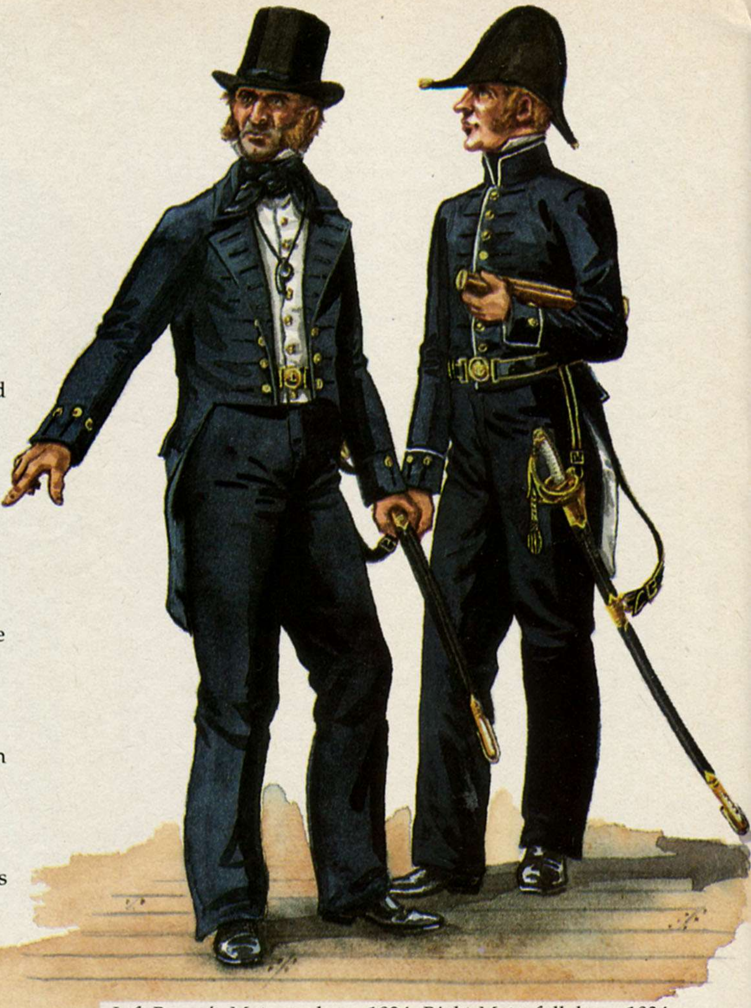
Coat - Blue cloth, with a scarlet stand-up collar, with two-inch lace round the top and front, and three quarters of an inch lace along the bottom; a slashed sleeve with blue three-pointed flap, edged with one and a quarter inch lace, with three small buttons, half an inch in diameter; a scarlet cuff, with two-inch lace, of the Navy pattern, round the top and down the front edge; pocket flaps, with three points, edged with gold lace same as on the cuffs and collar, *viz.* two inches wide, and with three buttons underneath; the body of the coat lined with the same cloth, and the skirts lined with white kerseymere; two rows of buttons in the front, ten buttons in each row; the two rows to be three inches apart from the front of the button-hole to the centre of the button; the skirt to begin at one-sixth of the circumference from the front edge, two buttons on the hips, and two buttons on the bottom of the plait; the button to be raised, gilt, and one inch in diameter, indented with a round rim, and within the rim an anchor and a cable, and a crown over between two wreaths of laurel; two gold epaulettes; with forty bullions each, over a bonnet and a crescent, and edging to the strap, with silver anchor and crown and three silver stars, two stars on the crescent and one star above.

Waistcoat - single breasted, white cloth or kerseymere, with buttons half inch diameter, of the same pattern as the coat.

Trowsers - blue cloth, with gold lace of the same width as that on the coat down the outside seam.

Cravat or Stock - black silk.

Hat - cocked; the flaps ten inches in the back, eight and a half inches in the front, six inches at each corner; bound with gold lace, two and a half inches wide, showing one inch and a quarter on each side, with a black silk cockade six inches wide; looped with six gold bullions, three and a half eighth of inches wide, and the two centre twisted with a button of the same size and pattern as the coat, and tassels, with five gold and five blue bullions each.



Left Bosun's Mate, undress, 1834. Right Mate, full dress, 1834.

The Sword, Belt, Knot

Hilt - solid, half basket guard, with raised bars and crown and anchor badge, lion head back piece, white fish-skin grip, bound with three gilt wires; outside length, five inches and three quarters; inside length, four inches and a half.

Blade - slightly curved, with a round back, thirty-one inches and a quarter long, one inch and three eighths wide at the shoulder, with a double-edged spear point.

Scabbard - black leather, top locket plain, four inches long, with plain broad hook, threaded chape six inches long, horse shoe bottom; the hilt and mountings of brass, lacquered.

Belt - black patent leather frog shoulder belt, two inches and a quarter wide, with brass regulating buckle and loop, to be worn under the waistcoat.

Knot - blue and gold rope, twenty-three inches long, with ditto ditto velum basket-work head, and twelve gold bullions, a piece of the same sort of cord, fourteen inches and three quarters long, is fixed to the hilt to which the knot is affixed.

Admirals. The same as the foregoing, but with three stars only on the epaulettes,

Vice Admirals. The same, with two stars on the epaulettes.

Rear Admirals. The same, with one star on the epaulettes.

Commodores of the First Class, and Captains of the Fleet when not Flag Officers. The same, but with the epaulettes of Captains above three years standing.

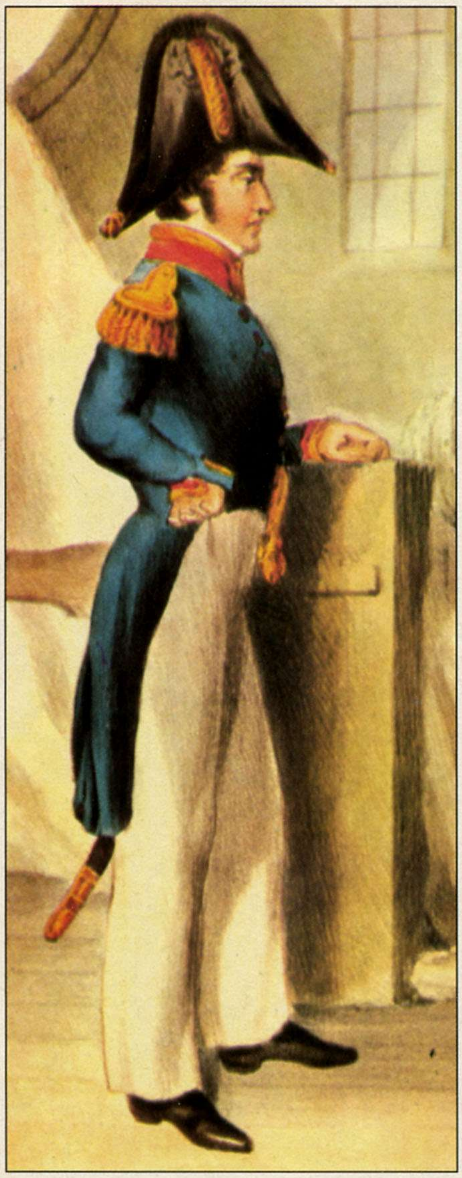
Commodores of the Second Class, and

Captains. - Coat - blue cloth, with a scarlet stand-up collar, with one and a half inch lace round the top and front; a slashed sleeve with blue three pointed flap and three buttons and holes; a scarlet cuff, with one and a half inch lace, of the Navy pattern, round the top and down the front edge; pocket flaps with three points, and a button under each point; the body of the coat lined with the same cloth, and the skirts lined with white kerseymere; two rows of buttons in the front, ten buttons in each row; the two rows to be three inches apart from the front of the button-hole to the centre of the button; the skirt to begin at one sixth of the circumference from the front edge, two buttons on the hips, and two buttons on the bottom of the plait; the button to be raised, gilt, one inch in diameter, indented with a round rim, and within the rim an anchor and a cable, and a crown over; two gold epaulettes, with forty bullions each, over a bonnet and a crescent, and edging to the strap, with silver anchor and crown; the epaulettes of those of three years standing to have a single anchor and crown, and those under three years standing to have the anchor alone.

The hats the same, but bound with black silk instead of gold lace, looped with Four gold bullions, the two centre twisted.

Commanders. The same as Captains, but their epaulettes are to be without either crown or anchor.

Lieutenants. The same, with the lace one inch wide, and one epaulette on the right shoulder, of the same description as Commanders, and a strap on the left shoulder similar to the strap of the epaulette. The loop of the hat to be of two gold bullions twisted.



Commander, summer full dress, 1830; from a contemporary print.

Master of the Fleet. The same as Commanders, but the coat to be single-breasted at angles with the skirts. Gold lace on coats and trowsers of the same width as Commanders and buttons, cocked-hat, sword, and sword-knots also the same as Commanders.

Physician. The same, but with nine buttons on the fronts, to be placed three and three.

Secretaries to Commanders-in-Chief. The same, but with eight buttons in the front, to be placed two and two.

Secretaries to Junior Flag Officers. The same Uniform as Pursers, or the Uniform of the Rank which they hold.

Masters. The name as Lieutenants, but the coat to be single-breasted at angles with the skirts. Gold lace on coats and trowsers of the same width as Lieutenant; and buttons, cocked-hats, swords, and sword-knots also the same as Lieutenants.

Surgeons. The same as Masters, but with nine buttons on the front, to be placed three and three.

Pursers. The same as Masters, but with eight buttons on the front, to be placed two and two

Second Masters. The same as Masters, but without epaulettes, or gold lace on the trowsers. The lace on the Coats to be three-quarters of an inch wide.

Assistant Surgeons. The same as Surgeons, but without epaulettes, or bold lace on the trowsers. The lace on the Coats to be three-quarters of an inch wide.

Captains' Clerks; and Clerks to Secretaries. The same as Pursers, but without epaulettes, or gold lace on the trowsers. The lace on the Coats to be three-quarters of an inch wide.

Undress Coats, Trowsers, Great Coats, and Cloaks. All Officers are to wear as undress a short blue single-breasted great coat, with a stand-up collar; Second Masters, Assistant Surgeons, Clerks, Mates, and Midshipmen wearing such coats, are to be distinguished by one row of gold twist on each cuff; Lieutenants, by one row of gold lace, a quarter of an inch wide, on each cuff; Commanders, by two rows of such lace on each cuff and Captains, by three rows of such lace on each cuff.

If Flag Officers shall, under similar circumstances, think proper to wear coats of the same description in lieu of the proper uniform, they are to wear their proper epaulettes upon it.

All undress coats and best costs to have the appropriate button of rank of the respective Officers, which is to be placed according to regulation.

All Officers may wear in undress at sea, a round jacket without skirts, with their appropriate buttons, and a round black hat, with a narrow black silk band and a black buckle, and a black silk or leather cockade, with a loop of the same material and half the width of the lace of their respective coats, or if they have no lace on their coats, of black silk ribbon (except Midshipmen, Masters' Assistants, and Volunteers, who are to have a loop of gold twist, as before stated); or a blue cloth cap, with a band round it, of half the width and material of the lace of their coats; Officers who have no lace to their coats, who now wear gold bands, may have a band of gold lace, half an inch wide, round their caps; other Officers are to wear such bands as at present.

On all occasions of Full Dress, Officers shall wear White Trowsers over boots between the 1st of May and the 14th of October, and Blue Trowsers between the 15th of October and the 30th of April.

Whenever Blue Trowsers are worn in full dress, those of Commissioned Officers shall have Gold Lace of the same width as that of their Coat down the outside seams.

In undress, Blue Trowsers are to be worn without Lace; but Officers are at liberty, in warm climates, or on the home station in the Summer months, to wear White Russia Duck Trowsers.

The uniform cloaks and great coats of the Royal Navy are to be blue, lined (when lined) with blue or white.

Patterns or drawings of each of the before-mentioned articles of dress are to be seen at this Office, and at the Office of each Port Admiral.

Articles of Uniform, which have been made of a different pattern from the foregoing, may be worn till the 1st of April, 1833, but no longer.

Mates. - Coat. - Blue cloth, lined with white serge, edged with white cloth, stand-up collar with a button and button-hole of one quarter inch wide, gold lace on each side of the collar; single breasted at angles with the skirts; blue round cuffs and pocket, with corresponding blue twist button-holes, and three buttons in the folds of the skirts. - Buttons, Waistcoat, Cravat or Stock, Buckles, Hat, and Sword.- To be the same as Lieutenants,

Gunners, Boatswains, and Carpenters. - Coat.- Blue cloth; if lined, to be with serge, fall-down collar, blue lapels to button across, and round cuffs; nine buttons on the lapels, and three on each cuff and pocket, with corresponding blue twist button-holes, and three buttons in the folds of the skirts. Plain gilt buttons, with an anchor and cable engraved thereon. - **Waistcoat.**- White. - **Cravat or Stock.**- Black. - **Hat.**- Plain round. - **Sword.**- Of the same pattern and length as Commissioned Officers, but the back-piece of the handle is to be plain, with a flute round the top and down the back; with a black fish-skin grip bound with three gold wires; the etchings on the blade not blued or gilt. - **Sword Knot.**- Of blue silk, mixed with gold fringe, but no bullions, - **Sword Belt.**- Blue silk or black leather, same size and shape as Commissioned Officers.

Midshipmen. The same as Mates, with a white turn-back on each side of the collar, but the coat not to be edged with white, nor to have the gold button-hole. - **Swords.** - Of the same pattern as Lieutenants, but of such length as may be convenient.

Volunteers of the First Class. The same as Midshipmen, but instead of the White turn-back, a button-hole of white twist on the collar, with a corresponding button, and to wear dirks instead of swords.

Masters' Assistants and Volunteers of the Second Class. The same uniform as Volunteers of the First Class, and the button-hole on the collar to be blue twist.

By Command of their Lordships,
George Elliot

MEMORANDUM

Admiralty, 17th May 1832

A mistake having for some time existed in the official Navy List, by which Gunners, Boatswains, and Carpenters are required to wear Cocked Hats, as Uniform; they are hereby directed to observe that, by His Majesty's regulations of the 18th December, 1827, they are to wear plain round Hats, and that no other Hats are allowed to be worn as Uniform by them.

By Command of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty,
George Elliot.

By Admiralty Order of the 2nd July, 1832 swordbelts were ordered to be removed from wear across the shoulder and replaced with a two-inch black patent leather waistbelt, the sword to be carried from one-inch slings for all those entitled to carry the sword.

Admirals were to have their swordbelts and slings embroidered with gold oak leaves through the centre, with a thin gold straight line of embroidery along each edge. Captains were to have their belts decorated with three thin straight lines of embroidery, one through the centre of the belts/slings and along each edge. Commanders to Masters, the edges only being decorated with thin gold embroidery. Mates, Midshipman, Warrant Officers and Quarter-deck Petty Officers, i.e., Gunners, Boatswains and Carpenters, to wear a plain black patent leather belt and slings.

Undress waistbelts and slings for all ranks were of plain black leather, one and a half inches wide. Locket and clasps were round, gilt, bearing a crown above an anchor. Sword scabbards were altered accordingly to accommodate the sword slings by having carrying rings fitted. ■

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Military Modelling magazine and **Historex Agents** of Dover have joined forces to present a **FREE** competition to give twelve lucky readers the chance to own one of the following exciting prizes ...

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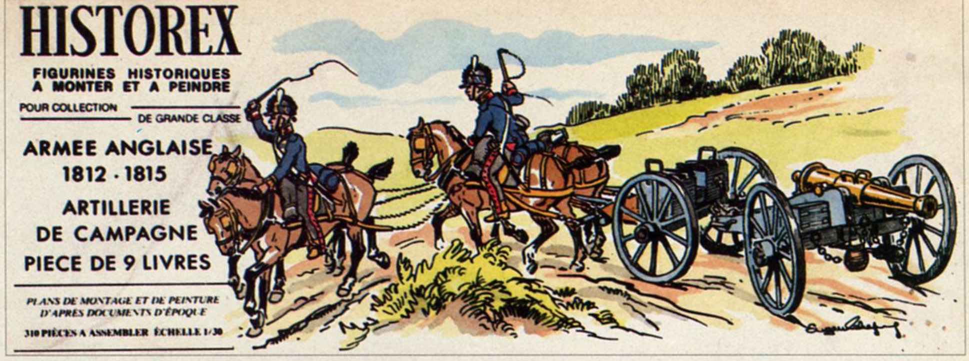
No letters please!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POUR COLLECTION DE GRANDE CLASSE
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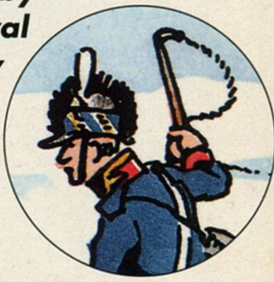
310 PIÈCES A ASSEMBLER ÉCHELLE 1/30

Questions:

1. What are the fur-crested helmets worn by the British Royal Horse Artillery 1812-15 called?

(see the boxtop artwork of the Historex kit)



2. What is the name of the 'system' given to French Napoleonic period artillery pieces?

- ● The first three correct entries drawn will each win a Historex British Royal Horse Artillery Gun Team kit - worth £39.50.

- ● The next six correct entries drawn will each win a model kit of Napoleon's 'Berlin' coach - worth £29.50.

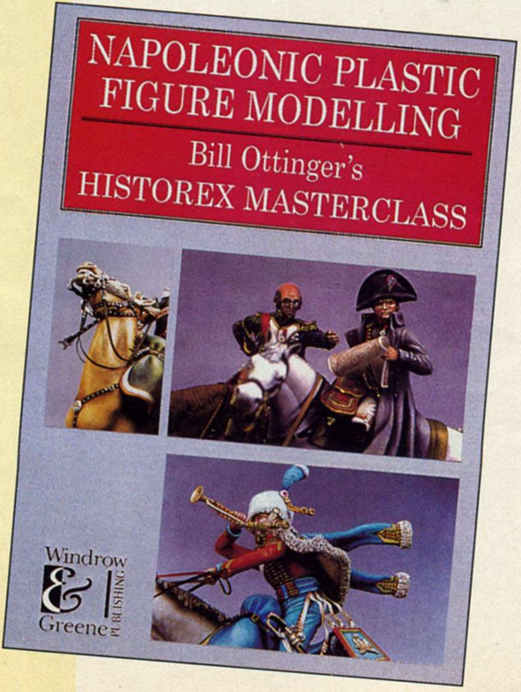
- ● The last three correct entries drawn will each win a copy of *Napoleonic Plastic Figure Modelling* by Bill Ottinger, published by Windrow & Greene - worth £19.95.

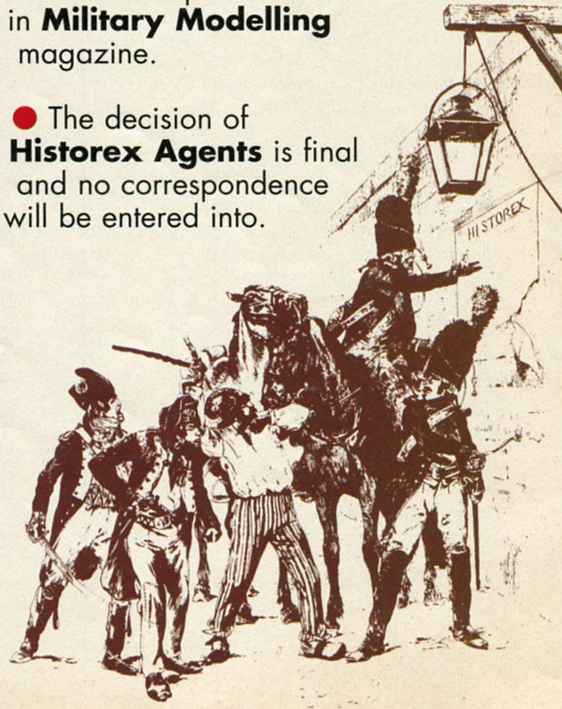
No cash alternatives will be given

- ● Closing date for the competition is 31st July 1997.

- ● The winners will be notified by post and their prizes sent to them direct. The names of winners will be published in **Military Modelling** magazine.

- ● The decision of **Historex Agents** is final and no correspondence will be entered into.


NAPOLEONIC PLASTIC FIGURE MODELLING
Bill Ottinger's
HISTOREX MASTERCLASS
Windrow & Greene PUBLISHING

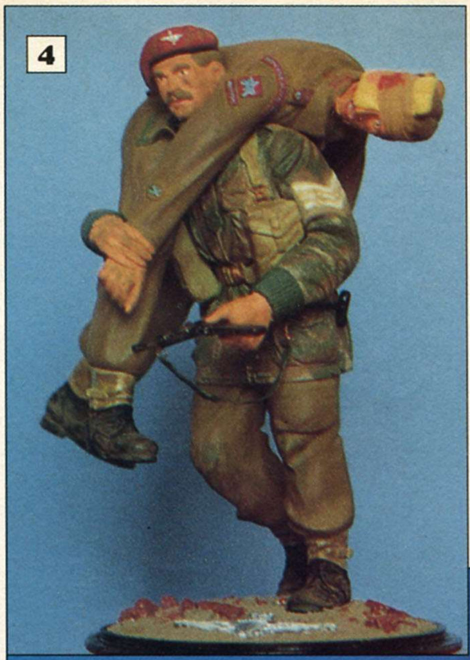


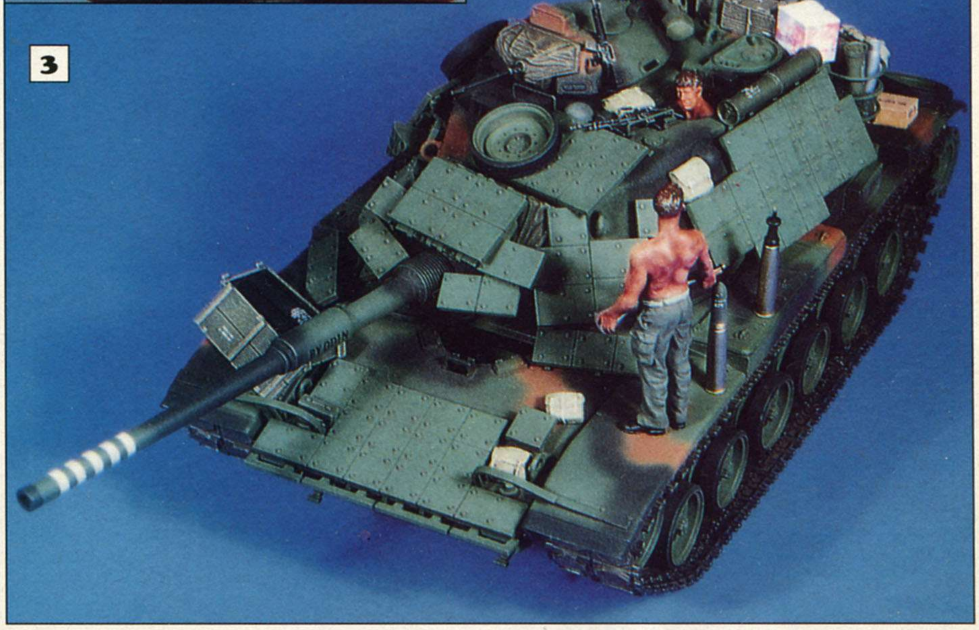
PLEASE NOTE: we are now unable to return photographs submitted for the Readers' Models page. Ensure you do not send originals or negatives, but please do include your name and address, plus a description of the model.

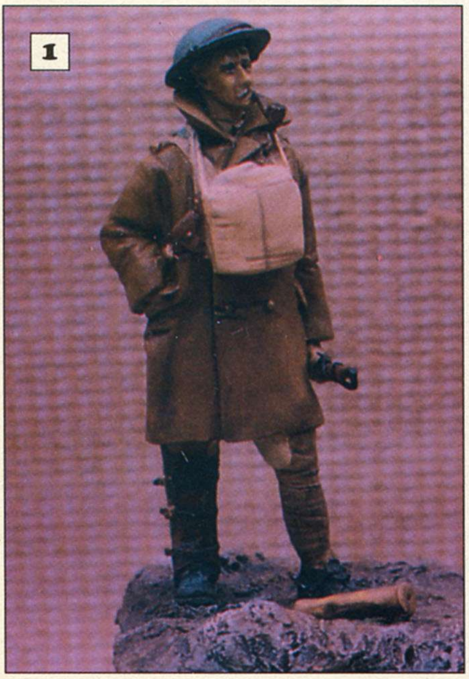
READERS' MODELS

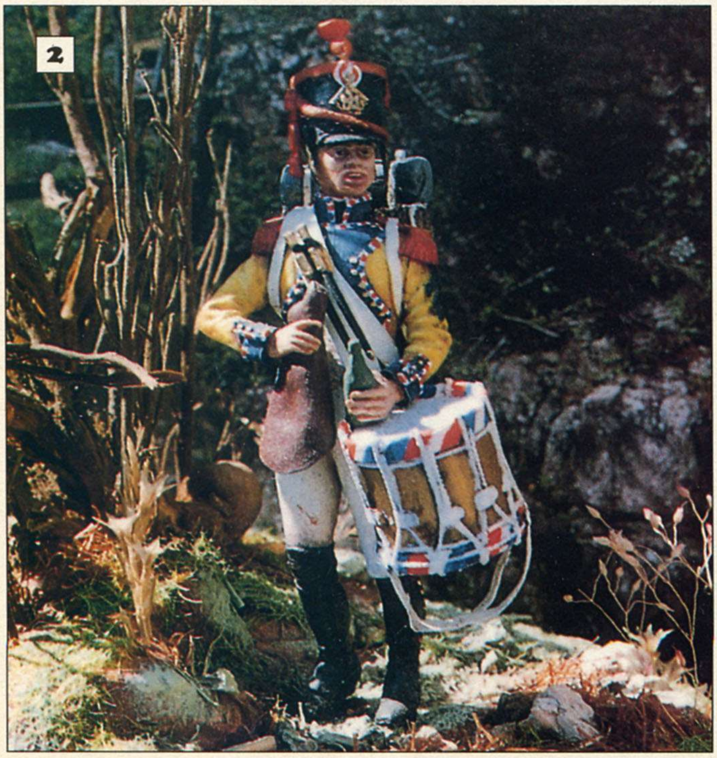
A picture of your model could be here...
Send your photos to Readers' Models,
Military Modelling, Nexus House,
Boundary Wary, Hemel Hempstead,
Herts HP2 7ST.
Don't forget to include a description of the models in your photos and your full name and address.

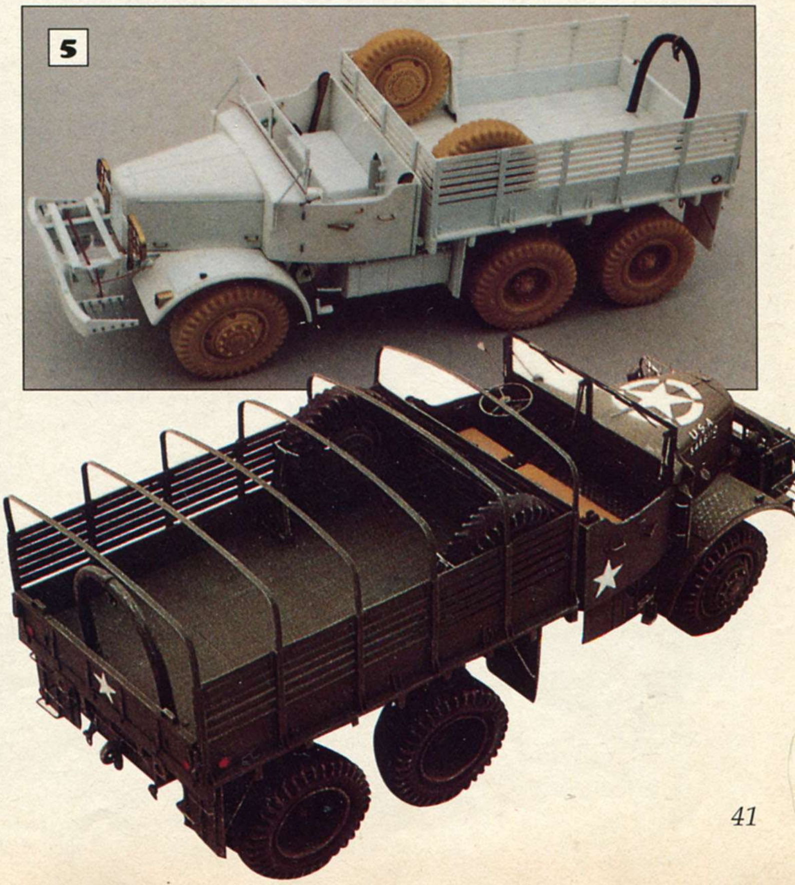
1. Driver, Royal Horse Artillery 1917 is a 75mm Fusilier figure painted in enamels and artists' oil paints by B. Chapman. Bill Harvey took the photograph. 2. A Historex Drummer of the French 67 Regiment of Line, 1810 assembled and painted in oil colours by Luxembourg reader Marc Mond. 3. American reader Li-Ban Chiu's 1:35 scale Tamiya M60A1 with reactive armour. The accessories are Verlinden Productions and the model was painted with Model Masters' enamel paint. 4. Verlinden Production's 120mm British WWII paras assembled and painted by Irish modeller Alan Fitzgerald. 5. 'Before and after' on Belgian modeller Philippe Oberge's scratch built 1:35 scale US Mack (NO2) 6x6 7.5 ton truck.

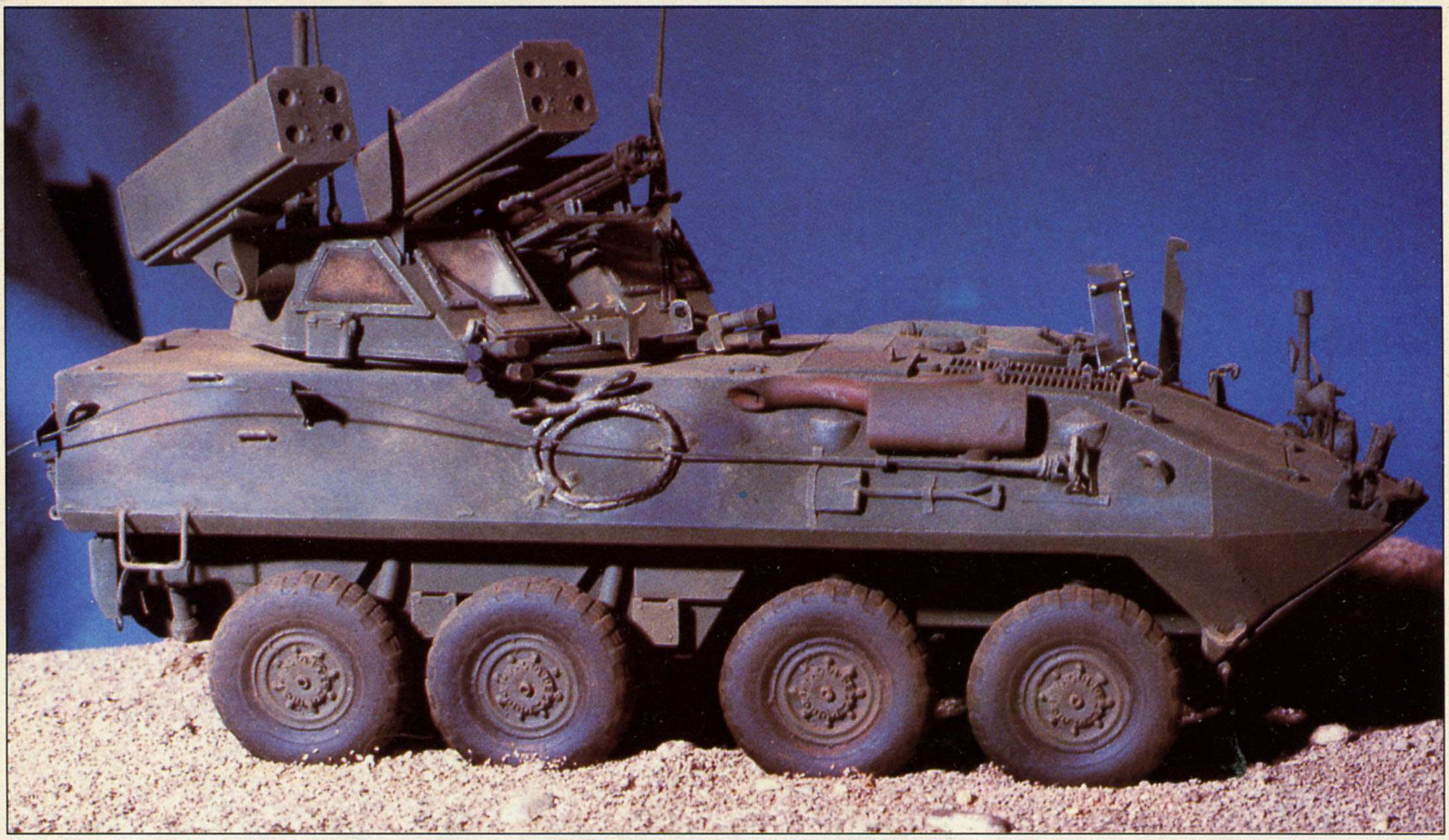












'Accurizing' the Testors/Italeri LAV-AD

John Rauscher corrects the 1:35 scale kit of Italeri's LAV Air Defence variant released under the Testor's brand name in the United States

I knew when Testor's announced the release of their LAV-AD kit that I would have to review it, not only because the Esci kit was a dog (but salvageable - see Cookie Sewell's articles in the old *ANN Review* No's 20 & 21), but also because I had access to sources of information on prototype vehicle configuration. So, knowing full well that any kit Testors planned to release so early would be an early prototype, I set out to gather as much info as I could get on the actual test vehicle.

This version of the LAV AD (or Air defence) was born through a U.S. Marine Corps sponsored shoot-off competition in 1988, where several competitors fielded test platforms. Requirements stipulated that the vehicle be air transportable, amphibious, and rugged. General Electric Aerospace Group's Armaments Systems Department (the same guys who designed and produced the Vulcan 'Gatling' gun), and now the Armaments Systems Division of Martin Marietta, won the competition which led to the production of two prototype vehicles for Test and Evaluation by the USMC. This air defence version was a hybrid system of a 25mm GAU-12 'Gatling' gun firing AT-SPM, together with two pods of *Stinger* missiles, to engage aerial targets. Two vehicles were delivered in the Fall of 1992 and at least one of the LAV-AD's found its way to the test facilities at Yuma, Twenty-nine Palms, China Lake, back to Yuma, and then back to home base at Burlington, Vermont, where the turret was removed, and the entire hull shipped back to Defense Department General Motors (Canada) in December, 1993.

Remember, the LAV hull is based on the Swiss Mowag Piranha and Martin Marietta got their hulls from Canada. A proposed production order was due to commence early to mid 1994, but Santa decided the boys at M.N. were definitely not good this year, and the whole project has been extended 15 months, due to a US Marine re-evaluation of their needs, and the desire to incorporate SINGAR Radios in the vehicle. So, with a variety of plans, schematics and assistance, I was able to compare Testor's kit (which incidentally they label as the prototype at Yuma in a photo in the instructions, while their hull is based on their already existing kits), with reliable source material of the final pre-production vehicle. This is significant because after nearly two years of testing, the LAV-AD

The finished model painted dark green and weathered.

has undergone at least three revisions, so, with all glitches worked out, the vehicle information I had access to was as near the production vehicle prior to a contract that existed at the time of writing.

Initial difficulties

Beginning with the kit's instructions, I had some initial difficulty scaling out the vehicle. Using additional references (*Full Detail* and *Tanks Illustrated 13*), I came to the conclusion that dimensions as stated in the instructions were off. Try as I might, I couldn't come up with accurate kit dimensions by their figures. The actual dimensions, and angles of bow and stern of the kit are pretty close - within a few scale inches or degrees either way, overall.

As I mentioned, Testor's must have used the original prototype for their kit (understandable with the lead time of kit inception to release), as there have been significant changes overall! I also subscribe to the 'Philosophy of TLAR' (or, That Looks About Right!), so the changes I made were the most noticeable cosmetic ones. Interior information is closely held, so what I have outlined below are the changes to produce a very accurate *external* configuration based on knowledgeable sources. None of the detailing I am going to is drastic. I did choose to use a photo-etched detail set from Eduard, designed for the LAV-25 kit where applicable, and in other areas some of the changes do require some minor scratch building; so, let's get to work!

Step 1

Don't make the mistake I made and assemble this step without a dry fit! A quick look leads one to think all is well here ...and it is until you're through and the whole hull has a nose-up attitude and the front pair of wheels are clear of the ground! The reason for this calamity is quite simply in the shock towers (parts 3A and 4A both times two).

To keep your LAV-AD from looking like a creature scaling a cliff, you need to cut 1mm from each tower - the area between the cylinder and the coil is a good place - drill a hole in each resulting piece and pin the parts back together, and proceed with the kit instructions. Failing to do this prevents the pair of shocks in Step 2 from resting in their recesses on the hull sides, and causes part 9B to resist lying smoothly against the hull floor in Step 2.

Step 2

The propeller blades are accurate, but too thick - either sand them down or fashion new ones using the kit examples as guides, retaining the kit hubs.

Step 3

Items 31C, 32C, 33C, 35C and 36C are no longer used on LAV-AD - into the parts box with them! Remount part 37A and scavenge parts from your spares box - you'll need a long handled axe, long pry bar, pick axe head, short pry bar, pick axe helve, and all tools should be mounted to left rear where part 31C would have gone (see Figure 1-1). Use metal foil or photo etched bits for mounts. Also, add a camouflage tent bag and tent/tarp/pole bag as in the drawing.

Step 4

The instructions seem to show seats in this step. As I mentioned, the interior is not addressed here, but consists of stowage for stinger rounds and ammo for the gun - there are no vision ports on the rear doors! For the purposes of this article, we'll assume the doors are closed. The exterior of the kit rear is fine, but you may want to detail the fuel cans, adding some after market photo-etched jerrycan holders from Eduard (LAV 25 set 35-026). For a full listing of sources and references, see end of article.

Step 5

Omit part 38C, the rest is okay.

Step 6

Round out the lower corners of the winch access covers (the smaller of the two hatches on the bow roof), as the hatch is too square. Do this by filling the lower corners with putty, let dry and sand smooth. Then scribe new, more rounded corners to match the illustration in the instruction sheet.

Slice off the mirrors and remount horizontally, as they are only vertical for transport. Part 62A is too fine - the horizontal rollers need to be heftier - cut the two horizontal rollers off, drill out the uprights, and create thicker rollers from stretched sprue or styrene rod, reassembling the cable guide. A top span of steel plate is missing, so shave off the bolt detail, scratch build a 6mm x 2mm piece of .010 styrene to reinforce the top of this assembly, and reattach the shaved-off bolts or use small Grandt Line replacements (Figure 1-2).

You need a disc of plastic about 3-4mm with four bits as bolt heads. Mount this on the left directly above and behind the left headlight mount about 1mm. Using a 5mm long piece of plastic tubing with a 20mm length of rod inserted in one end until flush with the other, glue this onto the left headlight assembly behind the headlamp (I used bits from the photo-etched brass set as a platform, as well as the actual lamp mounts from Eduard).

Add a length of wire from the rod to the front edge of the disc you just glued onto the hull. This is an antenna mount with the wire entering the hull (See Figure 1-3). I used Eduard's mirrors from the same etched set, mounted horizontally in place of the kit ones.

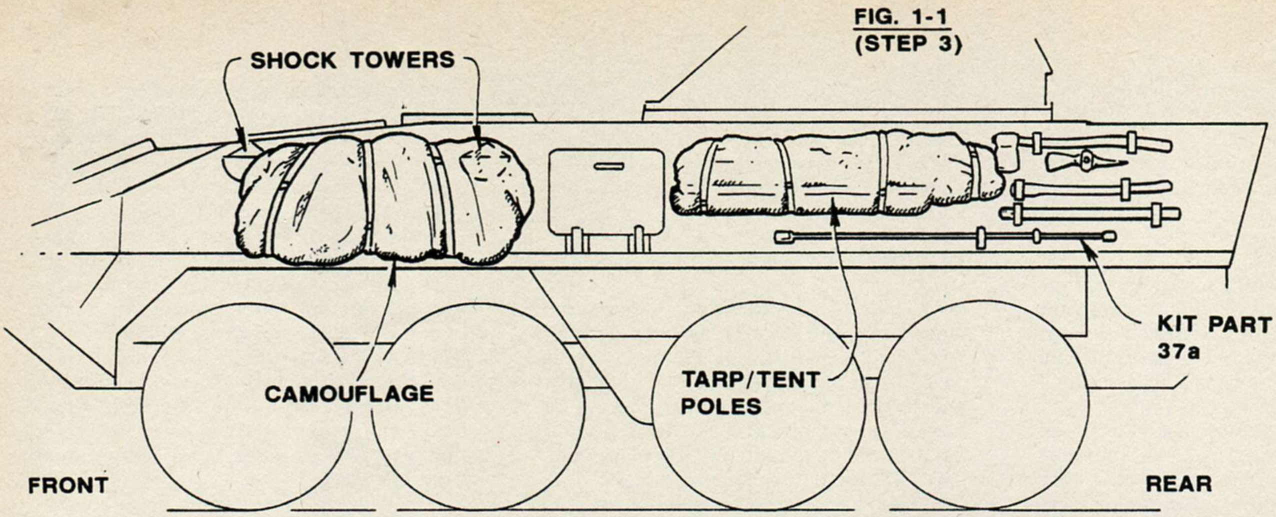
A brush shield should be added here, as well as two wire mounts for the windscreen when stowed. The brush guard mounts in front of the kit's wire cutter, and the shield are for the driver when his head is exposed. For placement of the brush guard, measure the winch access cover's depth, then double it up the slope of the hull behind it. The hatch from the winch area rests on the brush guard when opened. The brush guard lies across the hull, parallel to the edge of the roof, not with the hatch, which is offset. Use scrap etched brass or scored styrene. Add two wire tie downs in front. For a better description, see Figure 1-4.

Finally, part 61A should not be mounted on the centre line of the hull as shown in this step, but offset slightly away and onto the engine deck side - this is the visible attachment for the trim vane hydraulic ram.

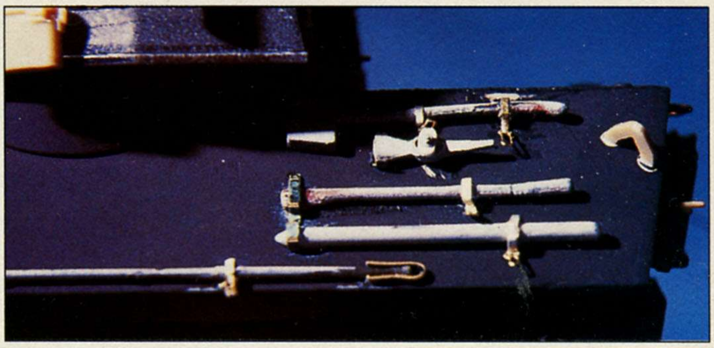
For a windscreen, I simply cut out a piece of thin styrene, and side panels and carefully laid acetate over this pattern and glued the lot to the hull in front of the periscopes with lead foil mountings. (see Figure and pattern at 1-4B).

The side panels should fan back at about 45 degrees. Note in the drawings that the port side panel is angled at its base to accommodate the sloping hull, and that the starboard side panel is cut short on the bottom - to ▶

FIG. 1-1
(STEP 3)

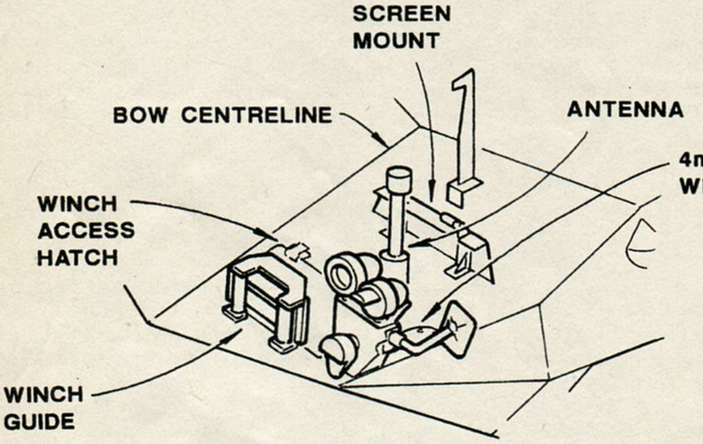

SHOCK TOWERS
CAMOUFLAGE
TARP/TENT POLES
KIT PART 37a
FRONT
REAR

LEFT SIDE ELEVATION



RIGHT: Left rear hull side showing tool stowage.

Author's original drawings reworked by Grahame Chambers


SCREEN MOUNT
BOW CENTRELINE
ANTENNA
4mm DISC WITH BOLT DETAIL
WINCH ACCESS HATCH
WINCH GUIDE

PORT BOW HEADLAMP DETAILS

WINCH ACCESS HATCH DETAIL

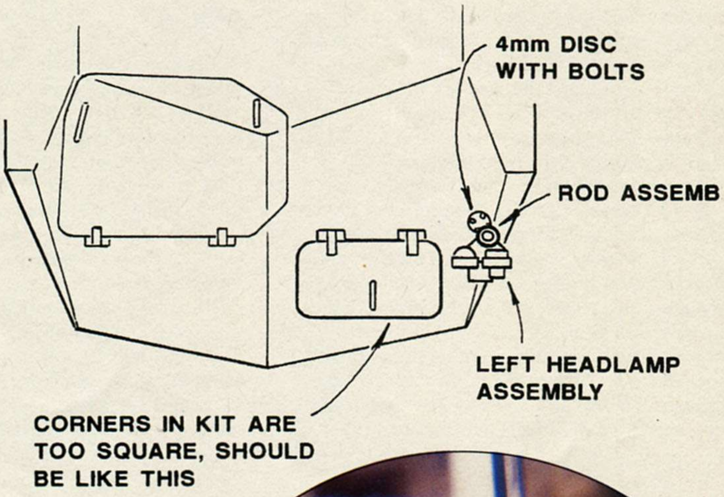

4mm DISC WITH BOLTS
ROD ASSEMB
LEFT HEADLAMP ASSEMBLY
CORNERS IN KIT ARE TOO SQUARE, SHOULD BE LIKE THIS

FIG. 1-2
WINCH CABLE GUIDE

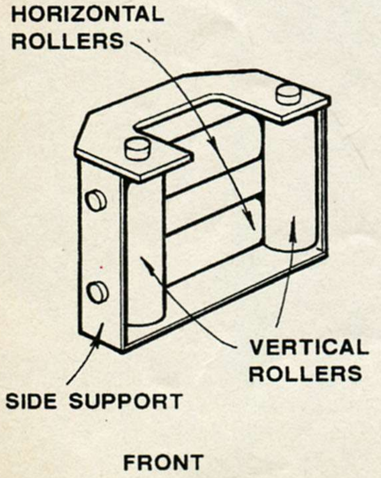
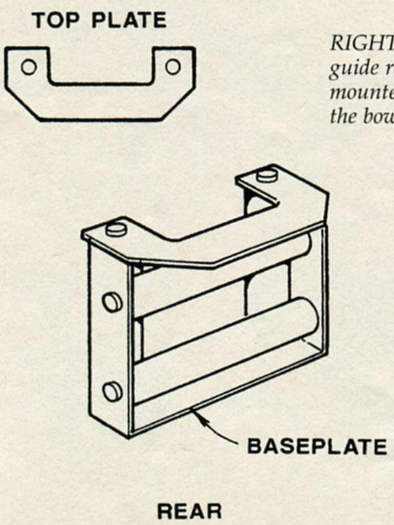
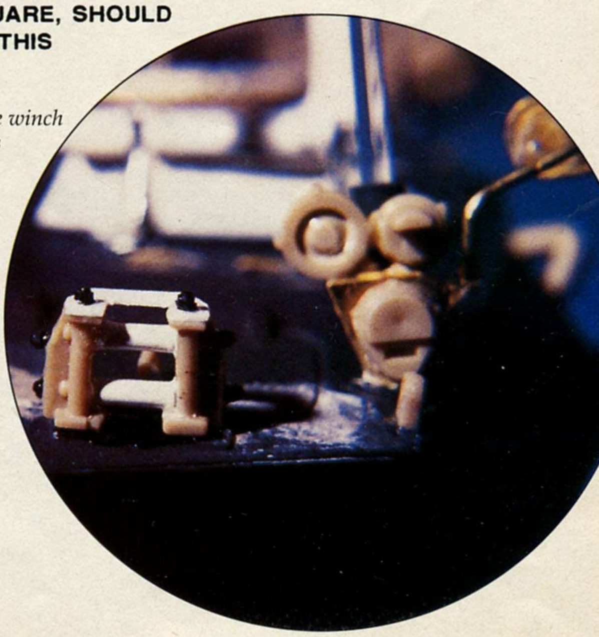

HORIZONTAL ROLLERS
VERTICAL ROLLERS
SIDE SUPPORT
FRONT

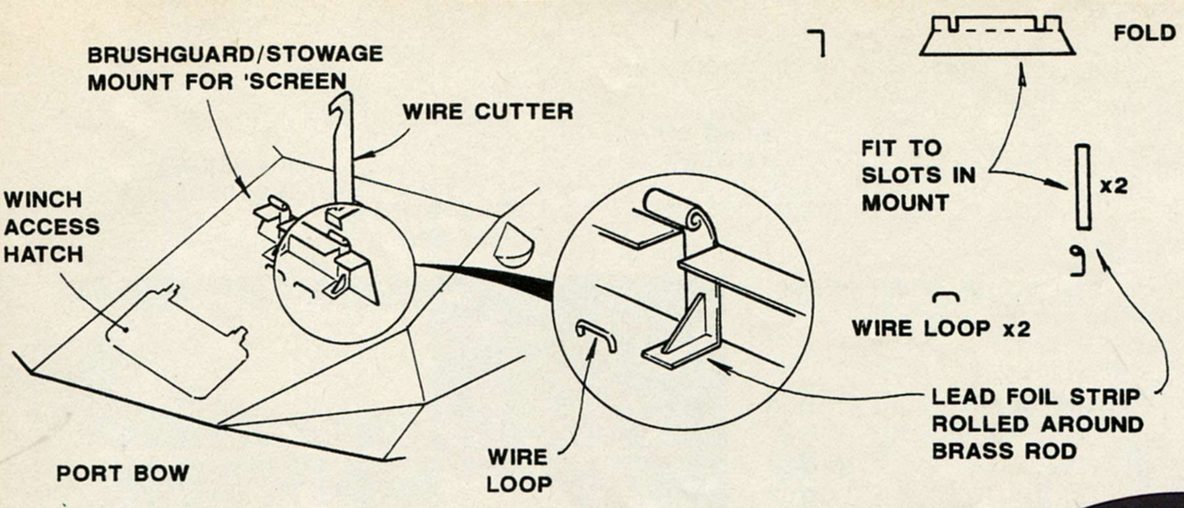
FIG. 1-3
(STEP 6)


TOP PLATE
BASEPLATE
REAR

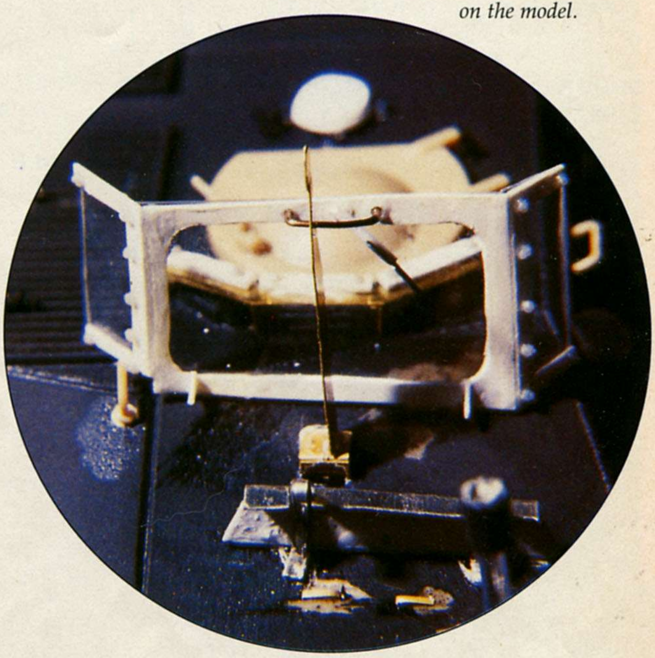


RIGHT: The winch guide rollers mounted on the bow.

FIG. 1-4a


SIDE VIEW
FULL SIZE
FOLD
BRUSHGUARD/STOWAGE MOUNT FOR 'SCREEN
WIRE CUTTER
WINCH ACCESS HATCH
FIT TO SLOTS IN MOUNT
x2
WIRE LOOP x2
LEAD FOIL STRIP ROLLED AROUND BRASS ROD
PORT BOW
WIRE LOOP

BELOW: The driver's windscreen in place on the model.



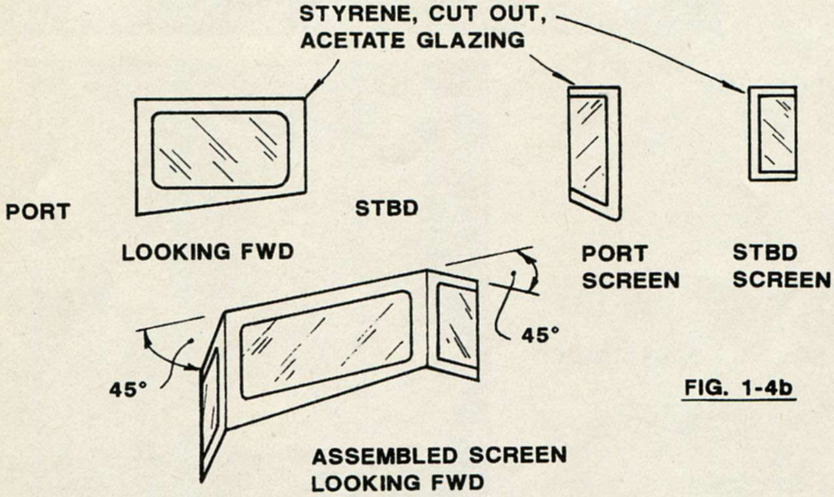
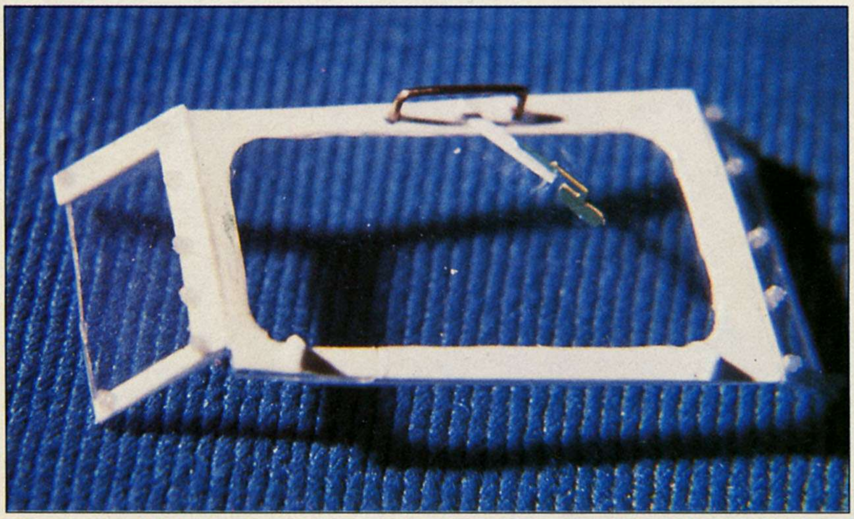

STYRENE, CUT OUT, ACETATE GLAZING
PORT
STBD
LOOKING FWD
PORT SCREEN
STBD SCREEN
45°
45°
ASSEMBLED SCREEN LOOKING FWD

FIG. 1-4b



Driver's windscreen.

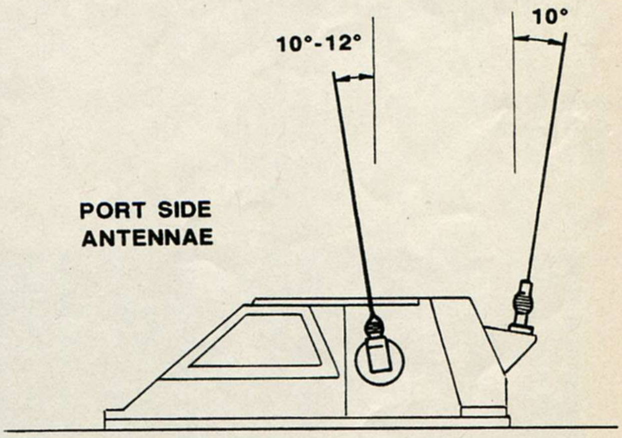

10°-12°
10°
PORT SIDE ANTENNAE

FIG. 1-9b

clear the intake grilles on the hull roof. Add a windscreen wiper and handle to the top centre of the windscreen.

Step 7

Perhaps the biggest change to the whole kit is the exhaust system. The kit's is nothing like the pre-production prototype! The kit muffler is 1.23 inches (32mm) long, and needs to be shortened to .78 inch (20mm) long; (rounding off to 1.25 inches and .75 inch is fine).

Do this by cutting off the pipe entering the muffler from the right, fill and sand. Cut off the exhaust pipe. Make a new exhaust pipe from stretched sprue and attach it to the top left side of the muffler. Add a very short length of sprue (about a 1mm slice) to the back of the muffler on the lower right corner (for all changes, see Figure 1-5) - this will sit on top of the existing hull mount and attach to the rear of the muffler.

Mount this new muffler even with the top of, and right near to the front shock tower, so that the first part of the exhaust pipe lays across the hull and over the rearmost shock tower! The spare small diameter pipe from the kit muffler can be used for the heater inlet, or you can scratch build one as I did. It needs to roughly parallel the muffler, and enter the hull between the grilles, per Figure 1-7B.

At this point, a whip antenna and mount need to be scratch built for the right hull side. Guitar string or stretched sprue, 5.7 inches (actual length) long will serve the purpose. I also used Verlinden antenna mounts, and Eduard parts 11 and 15 from the LAV-25 etched set.

▶

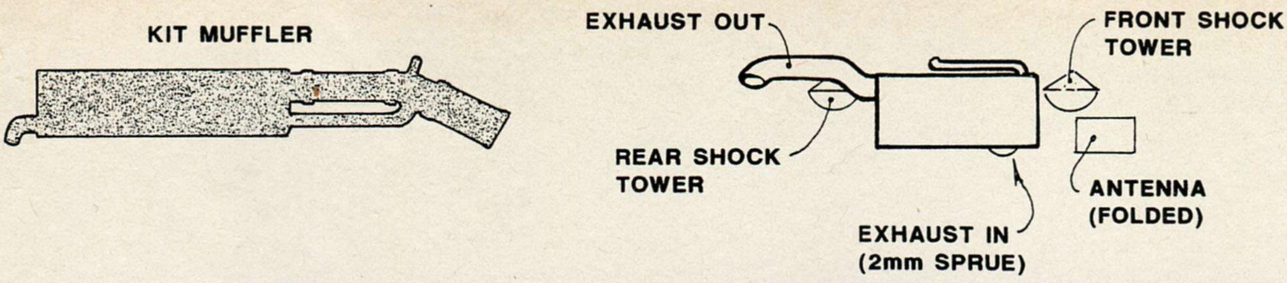
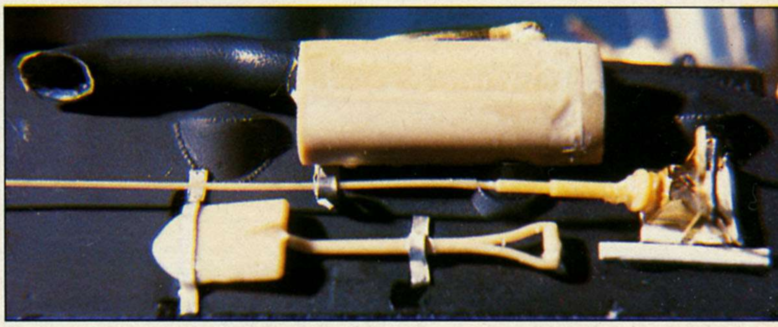

KIT MUFFLER
EXHAUST OUT
FRONT SHOCK TOWER
REAR SHOCK TOWER
ANTENNA (FOLDED)
EXHAUST IN (2mm SPRUE)

FIG. 1-5. MUFFLER DETAIL



ABOVE: Exhaust, shovel and aerial mount arrangement on the right hull side.

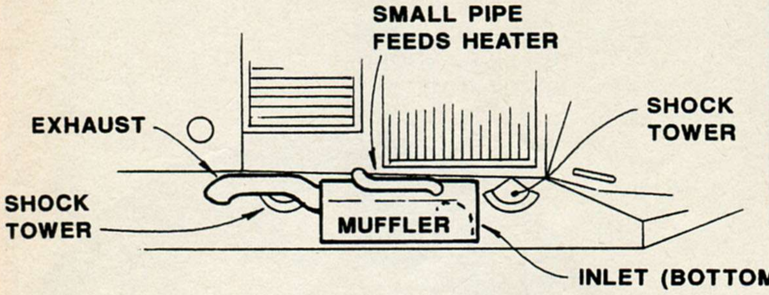
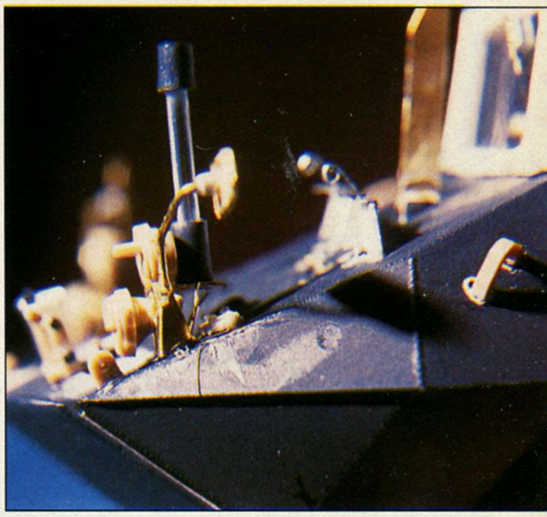

SMALL PIPE FEEDS HEATER
EXHAUST
SHOCK TOWER
SHOCK TOWER
MUFFLER
INLET (BOTTOM)

FIG. 1-7b
PLAN VIEW
MUFFLER DETAIL



ABOVE: Left side bow details around the headlamp cluster.

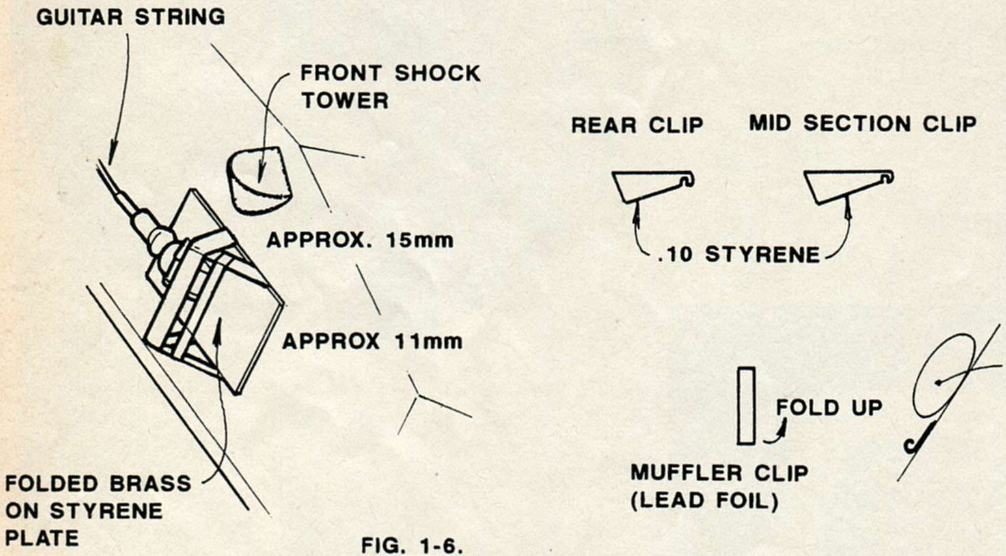
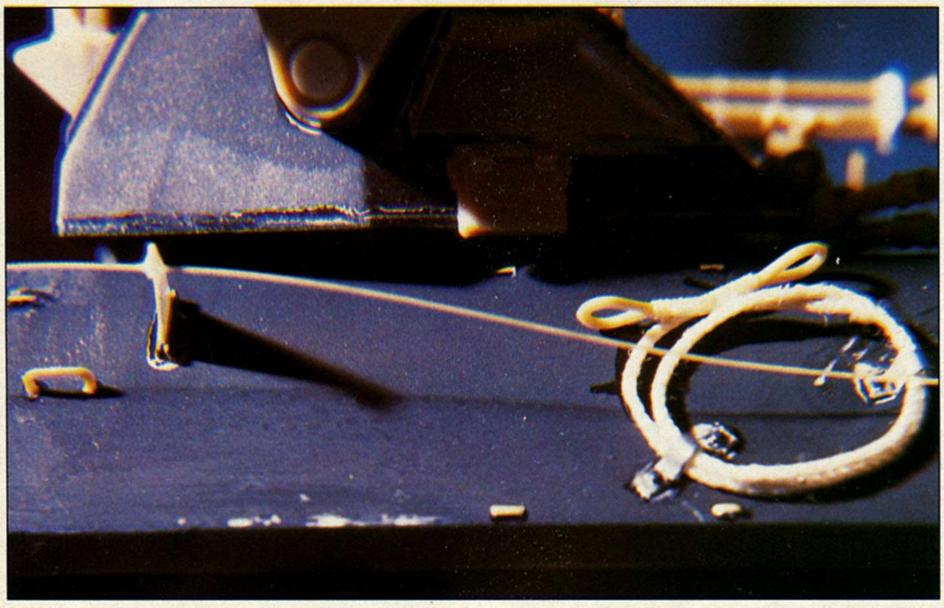

GUITAR STRING
FRONT SHOCK TOWER
APPROX. 15mm
APPROX 11mm
FOLDED BRASS ON STYRENE PLATE
REAR CLIP
MID SECTION CLIP
.10 STYRENE
FOLD UP
MUFFLER CLIP (LEAD FOIL)
MUFFLER

FIG. 1-6.
ANTENNA MOUNTS



Aerial routed over towing cable on the right hull side.

The actual antenna mount is a complicated affair that swivels for stowage, and lays the antenna along the length of the hull. A simplified version would be a shelf mount for an upright antenna, or see Figure 1-6 for a stowed version. Either way, mount it below and slightly ahead of the front shock tower, so that the antenna lays along the hull below the muffler. Three additional clips to secure it should be made - one a tiny ring of styrene tube mounted below the lower left edge of the muffler, and the last two resembling wire cutters at the top of the right rear hull, and at the rear hull's edge (see Figure 1-7A and B).

The shovel was moved, its handle facing forward, below the muffler and antenna; (it was under constant stress from the exhaust). Fashion clips from metal foil, and make a tow cable about 4 inches long, looping it and mounting it above where the shovel should have gone. (remember 38C is omitted). The stowed antenna hangs past the rear hull surface by about a scale foot. The grab handles, as per the instructions, are mounted incorrectly, and should be moved forward to where part 38C

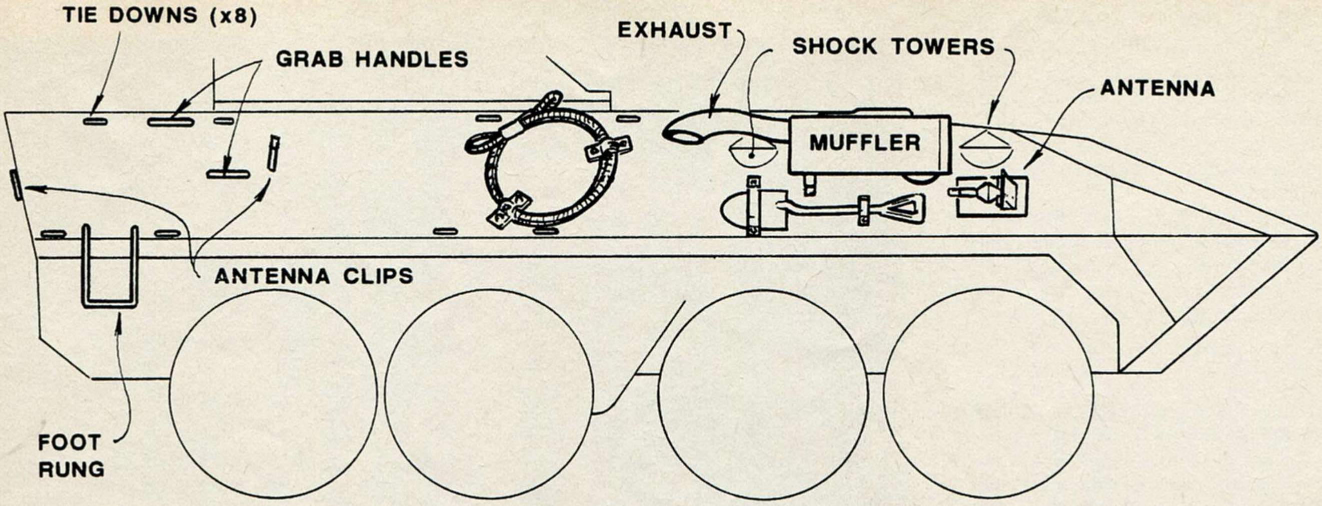

TIE DOWNS (x8)
GRAB HANDLES
EXHAUST
SHOCK TOWERS
ANTENNA
MUFFLER
ANTENNA CLIPS
FOOT RUNG

FIG. 1-8. RIGHT SIDE ELEVATION

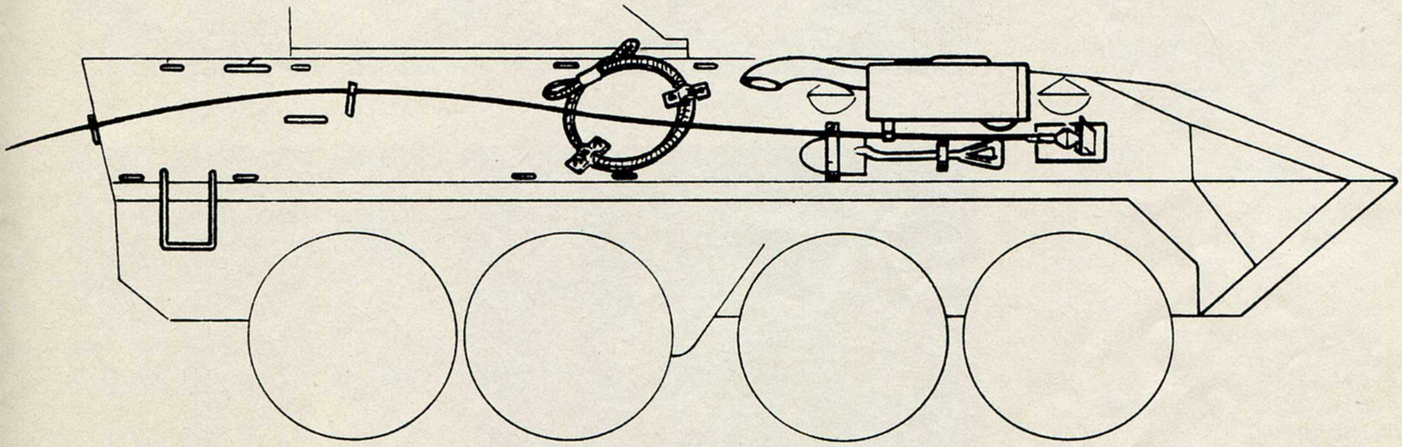
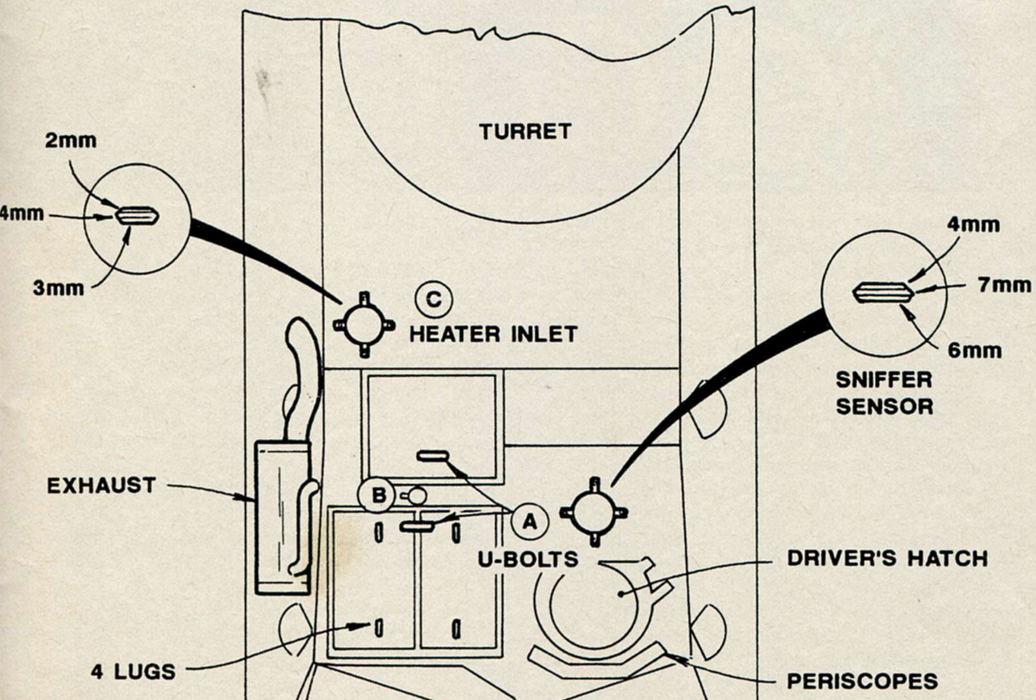
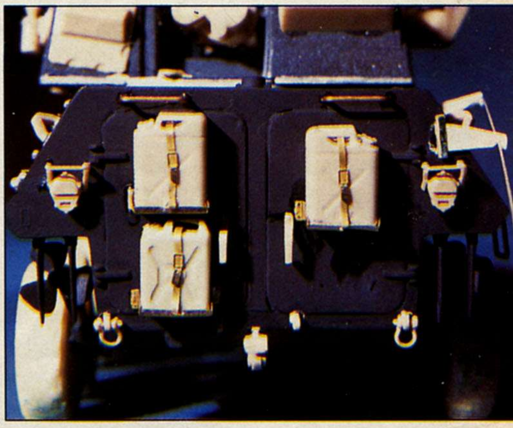


FIG. 1-7a
ANTENNA ROUTING

FIG. 1-9
HULL DECK


2mm
4mm
3mm
TURRET
C
HEATER INLET
4mm
7mm
6mm
SNIFFER SENSOR
EXHAUST
B
A
U-BOLTS
DRIVER'S HATCH
4 LUGS
PERISCOPES



ABOVE: Hull rear details show Eduard photo etched brass parts for jerrycan holders and retaining straps.

would have gone. Add a wire foot rung about a scale 8 inches from the rear hull surface. (see Figure 1-8). You could just as easily replace all the kit's grab handles with pieces of bent wire for a more scale representation.

A chemical sensor sniffer cover needs to be added behind the driver's hatch. Punch out three discs from .020 styrene sheet at 7mm, 4mm and 6mm diameters. With the 7mm in the middle, glue the 4mm and 6mm on each side of the 7mm disc, centred. Fill and sand to shape as in Figure 1-9A. Add four lead foil strips 1mm x 2mm as brackets, drill a hole through to the hull and add hex bolt heads also as per the figure.

The second vent, which already exists

on the kit, but could stand replacing if you choose to nitpick is a second similar cover, but with discs of 2mm,3mm,and 4mm diameter, and also with mounting strips and bolts. It should be mounted behind the second engine grille at letter C in Figure 1-9. I chose to leave it alone.

Add four lifting lugs (Grandt Line) and two U shape bolts as in Figure 1-9 at letter B. These are the securing points for the *Stinger* pod that is removed from the turret when the vehicle is being shipped.

Steps 8 - 10

The turret assembly is pretty accurate. Add a lift ring to the right side of the turret, but omit part 107C, as it is not an alternative *Stinger* pod placement. Part 108C, the turret side-mounted antenna, should be mounted canted, slightly forward, between 10 and 12 degrees. Fill the mounting point for part 107C and sand flush. Part 114C should be flat, as the bulge is for the early prototype only, and production vehicles will not look like this. The dual rear turret antennas should be canted back away from the turret by 10 degrees, and the port side turret antenna canted forward slightly (see Figure 1-9B). Finally, I would drill out the gun barrels with a fine bit.

General comments

The pre-production version of the vehicle called for exterior troop seats on the hull sides - a kind of folding jump seat affair - none of which were on the prototype, and a detail I did not include on my kit.

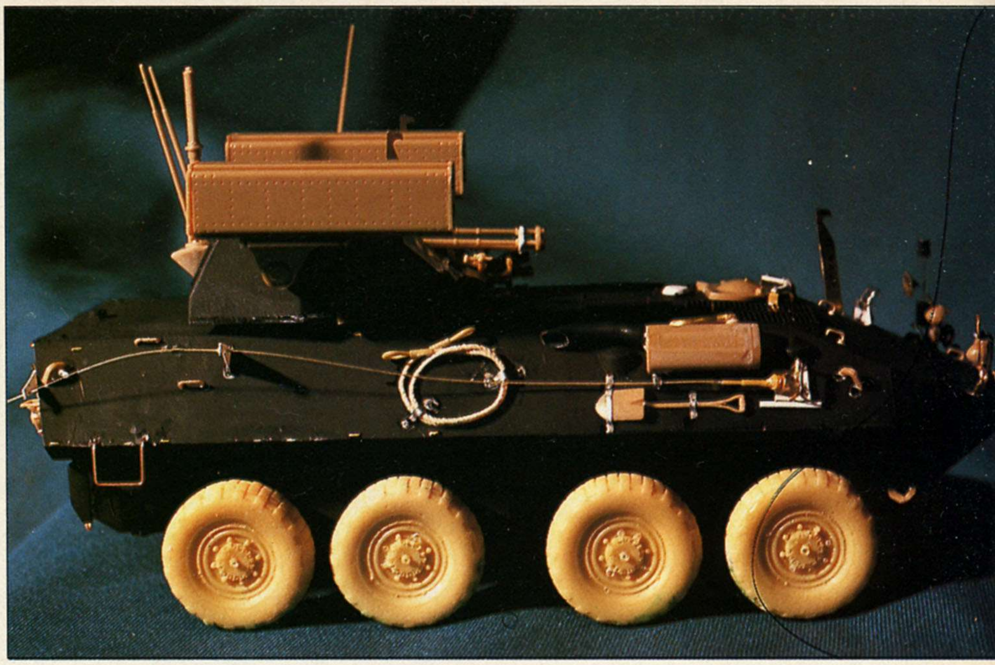
Overall, the kit will need some careful sanding to remove raised lines for placement of parts that were omitted for this variant. The turret, for transportation, is turned to starboard, and the *Stinger* pods are mounted as follows; the right pod is unbolted and reattached beneath its active mount. The left pod detaches and there are four buckle affairs on the intake grille on the right front of the hull top where it bolts down.

As for the wheels! Here lieth yet another issue! The Esci/Ertl kits have a good hub which, unfortunately, sits too low inside the tyre, which is too square in the shoulder. The Testor's/Italeri hub is wrong, but the tyre is good. Ultimately, I could take the Esci hub and the Italeri tyre (albeit with some heavy scribing of the tread to deepen it), and mate the two - eight times!

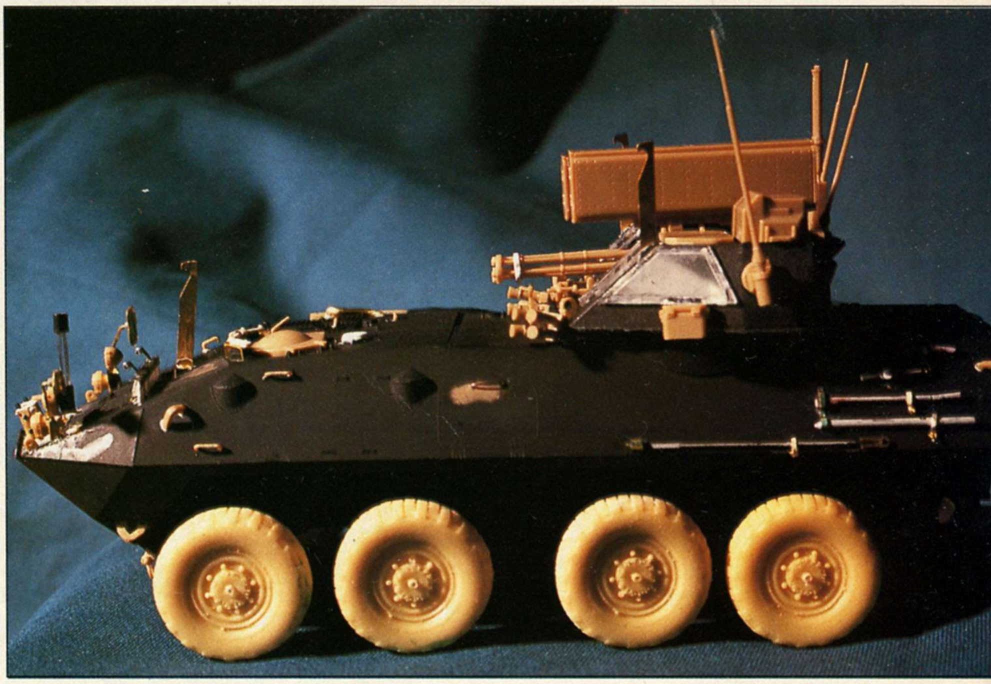
The problem lies in the fact that the hub has fins that skip a place opposite each other, and most manufacturers ignore this. I had received two sets of after-market LAV wheels for review, one set from N.E.V. Miniatures (an American Company now disenfranchised from the creator of the after-market items, Ralph Bagnall -see Sources at end of article) and the other from David Haugh *(Armored Car Newsletter)*. I understand that A.E.F. Designs in the U.S. and Accurate Armour in the U.K. also have produced 'accurate' LAV tyres, but have seen neither.

At a quick glance N.E.V.'s did look good, but the smaller bolts between the fins on the hub were very faint, and a fin would need to be carved away on each hub opposite one another, which sure beats making one's own wheel assemblies from scratch! This set also includes a spare without the hub and is complete with bolt holes!

Dave Haugh's tyres were rounder and the detail clear, but the only trouble he had was the mould giving out after a set of eight wheels. At any rate, I used Mr. Haugh's on this kit, and plan to use Mr. Bagnall's on another LAV venture, where I can take advantage of using the spare as well.



ABOVE: Right side of model ready for painting. BELOW: Left side of model before painting and weathering.



As for overall finish, the prototypes were finished in dark green overall, which faded to a grey/green around the edges. The test vehicles also got the living daylights beaten out of them, with small attachment points being torn off by scrub brush, corners and edges beaten, paint scraped off, and cracks forming in the hull from the shock of the whole hull flexing under extreme testing. These are points to keep in mind when giving the completed model a 'prior-to-painting once over'.

The kit is good as a starting point, and regardless of the variant you want, there are some points that will require attention in each. With the basic kit costing under $15, and with the addition of after market accessories (photo-etched, and tyres) you are looking at a price tag of under $45 for an accurate LAV-AD. The choice is yours, a lot of 'nit-picky' details, but all are rather simple to carry out and make the kit an accurate pre-production LAV-AD variant from Martin Marietta!

Sources

On The Mark Models, P.0. Box 663, Louisville, CO, 80027, USA.
Eduard photo-etched detail set for LAV-25. US supplier is VLS, 811 Lone Star Drive, O'Fallon, Missouri ,63366. For UK modellers Hannants, Harbour Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 3LZ can supply a detail set for the for the LAV 25 EDT 35026 price £5.95.
Ralph Bagnall, RFD 1 Box 101, Greenfield, NH O3OO7, USA.
David Haugh, *Armored Car Newsletter*, 556 N. 3rd Street, Woodburn, OR 97071, USA.

References

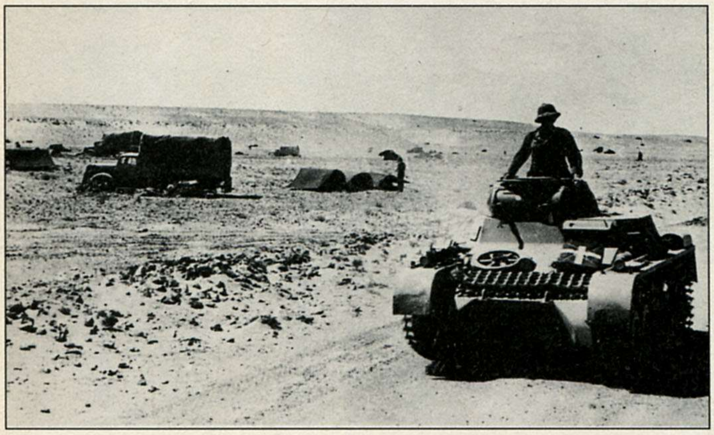
David Haugh and *Armored Car Newsletter*.
Tanks Illustrated No. 13, US Infantry Combat Vehicles Today by Zaloga and Green.
Full Detail Photo book on LAV by Ed Gilbert. ■

DESPATCH

The Editor welcomes readers' letters for publication which must always be accompanied by the writer's full name and address. The address will be published in full if the letter is interpreted as a request for information to the readership. Otherwise only the writer's full name will be published. Letters are not, under any circumstances, altered or severely edited; however, they may be shortened because of available space restrictions.

Letters to the Editor intended for publication should be addressed to "Despatch", Military Modelling, Nexus Special Interests, Nexus House, Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7ST.

READERS' LETTERS



Stowage sore point!

Dear Sir,
May I congratulate Mr. Farthing MM Vol. 27 No.2 on his excellent description of Challenger suspension. However, I must disagree with him regarding stowage.

There is a super abundance of pictorial evidence to prove that tanks in a prolonged combat situation tend to collect an ever increasing amount of outboard kit.

Panzer Colours shows a German tank with no fewer than 11 jerrycans on its back.

The Killing Ground shows a Sherman of the 13/18 Hussars in Normandy with, wait for it, three Jerry cans strapped to the side of the turret.

Moving on to modern times *Royal Scots in the Gulf* shows a Warrior with, wait for it, TOW ammunition boxes strapped to its side armour, along with six jerrycans.

It is perhaps, as well to remember that jerrycans can contain other liquids besides petrol.

I believe that Mr. Farthing should remember that the vast majority of modellers have no experience of AFVs in a combat situation and therefore must rely on photographic evidence in which there is ample evidence of exterior stowage.

I will heartily agree with him that such baggage must be stowed so that it does not obstruct vision, periscopes, etc.

A.F. Ridgewell

I think Mr Farthing was giving a personal opinion and, indeed, wartime photographs do show some amazing amounts of stowage on both Allied and Axis vehicles as Mr Ridgewell correctly points out. Vehicle stowage can run from the sublime to the ridiculous and this cleanly stowed Afrika Korps PzKpfw I Ausf A *has only a spare roadwheel and track, and a jerrycan on its nose. The white cross on the jerrycan identifies its use as for water only. Ed.*

Drum cupolas - and *zimmerit!*

Dear Sir,
It may interest some of your readers interested in German armour of WWII to hear about a recent publication on the Tiger Tanks.

For years modellers have argued as to whether any of the early Tiger Tanks with 'Drum Copula' had received coats of *zimmerit* anti-magnetic plaster.

Recently a friend loaned me a copy of Michael Green's book *Tiger Tanks* where I was amazed to come across four pictures of early Tiger Is with *zimmerit*. Three of the photos are of one tank, No.F01, which has an early hull and turret with drum copula, covered in zimmerit. An unusual feature of this vehicle is that it is fitted with steel wheels.

The second vehicle is less easy to make out as it's badly damaged with its road wheels missing, but clearly has a drum copula and *zimmerit* added.

There is a story to go with these tanks concerning a Major Schulze who commanded them. It appears they were part of a training school which was formed into a battle group on 1st April 1945. There were six Tiger I tanks and five Panthers. The Tiger's being numbered F01, F11, F12, F13, F14 and F15. Apparently only F01 and F13 have been identified with certainty from photos.

I hope this information will be of interest to modellers and that anyone with more information on the subject might come forward.

David Coyne

'CRIES FOR HELP'

● To augment my personal collection, I'm trying to obtain from either retail or private sources certain figures of the 'Banners Forward' series formerly produced by Alymer (superseded by Mundiart) of Valencia, Spain.

David Whitechat, Casilla 728,
Puerto Varas, Chile.

● Has anyone compiled an index for ***Military Modelling*** magazine since the published index was disbanded some years ago up to the present? I would like to hear from anyone who has produced and printed an index for their own use.
Alexander Miller, Sanderlings,
Plovers Barrows, Buxted, East
Sussex TN22 4JP.

● Can any readers lend or let me purchase the 1980 copies of ***Military Modelling*** magazine, which have the articles on the Bedford QL conversions. I have the December 1979 issue, but for reasons now beyond me, have failed to continue my collection at that time. Any assistance will be gratefully appreciated.
P. Bonnett, 9 Court Hill, Rosneath,
Dumbartonshire G84 0RN.

● I am trying to complete a collection of ***Military Modelling*** magazines from the early 1970's and am having trouble finding the following issues: Jan/March/Oct 1971 (or the 10th anniversary reprint of Issue 1); Aug/Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec 1972; Feb/April/June/July/Oct 1973; March/June 1974. I am also keen to replace damaged copies in my possession: Feb/May/Aug 1971; Jan/May/Sept/Nov 1973; Aug 1974; Oct 1975. If any readers have these copies floating around in their attics and would like to sell them, could they write to me (or fax 61 6 261 1357) with details.
R.D. Hampton, Unit 4 'The
Carrington', 6 Jardine Street,
Kingston, Canberra ,ACT 2604,
Australia.

● I am try to get a scale model of the warship HMS *Renown*. I have been trying to obtain this for the last 12 months but without success. I would be most grateful for any help.
Mr. H. Searle, 33 Higher Mowles,
Higher Compton, Plymouth
PL3 6PY.

● Wanted for a research project - Technical details, service history, photos, etc., about German WWII Maultier tracked truck conversions, tracked and road tractors including Steyr *Raupenschelepper Ost*, Porsche *Radschelepper Ost*, *Land Wasserschelepper*, also Krupp *Protze* truck.

Marc Neal (age 13), 1 Manor Court,
Main Street, Shadwell, Leeds
LS17 8JE.

● I am starting a modelling project to produce two of the Tiger I's commanded by Michael Wittmann. The first will be the one featured in the photographs of Wittmann receiving his Knight's Cross on the 14th January, 1944. The second being the vehicle he used as commander of 2nd Company, *schwere SS-Panzer Abteilung 101*. As it would have appeared on the morning of the 13th June 1944 just before the famous battle at Villers-Bocage. I have some general information on the Tiger I but very little in the way of detailed information on these particular vehicles. I would greatly appreciate any information about the vehicles, in particular the paint schemes and respective markings.
M.W. Lucas, 40 Hampden Close,
North Weald, Epping, Essex
CM16 6JX.

● Could any readers give me some details on the markings used on the Soviet T72 M1 during the Afghan Jihad 1979/89. Any help would be greatly appreciated, even if it is just the titles of any relevant books.
Ali Shaheed, 68 High Street, West
Town, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire
WF13 2QQ.

● I am trying to obtain a model of the Thorneycroft Antar Mk IIIA coupled with or either: (a) Tankey 60T semi trailer and (b) Tankey 50T semi trailer. I would be grateful for any help.
24601885 L/Cpl Dow M, 3 Tank
Transporter Sqn B.L.C., BFPO 16,
Germany.

● I am in the process of converting an M7 Priest SP into the Priest Kangaroo APC. I have been unable to locate any details of the interior fittings once the howitzer and ammunition bins have been stripped out. Can anyone help please?
Brian Murray, 6 Drybriggs,
Balgarvie Road, Cupar, KY15 4AJ.

SMALL SCALE SCENE

Robin Buckland's monthly column for military vehicle modellers

BEST
OF
SHOW

ABOVE: This super Char B1 Bis was built by Herve Corroyette and voted Best of Show at Trucks and Tracks.

Paul Heiser Models

I have previously covered Paul Heiser Models, and I was pleased to hear more from this company recently, along with a couple of new items in their range of 1:87 scale resin cast WWII subjects. These models are clearly produced as complementary to the Minitanks range and fill many of the gaps left for WWII modellers. The three latest are the Bren Carrier, the *SdKfz 250 Neu*, and the *Marder III* with 75mm *Pak 40* on the *PzKpfw 38(t)* chassis. Cast in polyurethane resin and packed in heat-sealed bags, both the 250 and the Bren Carrier come as two per pack, while the *Marder* is just the one and the kits are simple, but neatly produced.

For example the 250 has the hull, two track units, two front wheels and the machine-gun shield. Other details such as the machine-gun itself and any stowage are left to the modeller to add and there are plenty of suitable accessory sets in the Minitanks range. The Bren Carrier, or Universal carrier to be more correct, has the early pattern dust guards, and these I felt were a bit oversized, but in this material this is very simple to correct. The quality of these models has improved with experience, as is so often the case with cottage industries.

Heiser Models are available from PO Box 6187, Lakewood, California, 90714-6187, USA.

Model Search International

Model Search International stock an interesting variety of product lines, two of which happen to include something on armoured trains. The first is the Vac-U-Cast series of 1:76 scale and 1:285 scale resin models. In their 1:285 scale range is a Russian armoured locomotive which is a very simple model, just three parts, the loco, the tender and the running gear for the loco. A quick bit of preparation is needed, checking the fit of parts before gluing them together. It goes with the wagons that have been released earlier on in the series, along with some rail sections that can include bomb damaged sections as well. The end result would be an interesting railway diorama, say with some flat cars loaded with vehicles, possibly from the C&C range which Model Search also import from the USA. The loco costs £4, and if you add a few wagons then you could have quite an interesting little project going on without a huge outlay.

Model Search are bringing in some of the Polish books that are now on the market. The only problem is the Polish text, but the photographic content is universal and very useful. With the opening up of Eastern Europe we are beginning to see a lot of new material, both on WWII and modern subjects which I think is to be welcomed. In A4 format with a card cover, *Panzerzuge* is an example of the range that I have had a look at. I've seen a couple of the photos before, but not many and there is some excellent reference material for those interested in the armoured trains that were used on the Eastern front during WWII. The other great plus with this book is the very good quality set of scale drawings that come with it, folding out into two large sheets of paper revealing scale drawings in both 1:87 and 1:35 scales for a number of different wagons and an armoured loco. For example, there's a *Flakwagen*, Artillery and *Flakwagen*, tank wagon and a command car as well as the loco itself. Plenty to tempt you into a major modelling project here and very well priced at just £4.99.

Accurate Armour's 1:35 scale big Conqueror gun tank kit built up - the ARV is on the way too! Look out for it.

Model Search also stocks the series of Chronos videos, and I have now seen that on German Half-Tracks and Armoured Cars - magic! There is about an hour's worth of original film footage with an accurate commentary and it's good to see a video that doesn't simply contain a collection of archive film bits which we've all seen before. Serious modellers of WWII German AFVs will find these extremely helpful. Price is £14.95 each.

Model Search International have some unusual and interesting product lines on their lists, available from Hill House, Top Road, Slindon, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0RP.

Matador Models

The 1:76 model of the German Armoured Train built up by Model Transport has been brought back onto the market by Matador Models, produced along with their 1:87 vehicle range and which was relaunched at Trucks and Tracks. I am building a train up to feature in a later article so I'll come back on this one at a later date. In the meantime you can get one from, Matador Models, 6 Cliffe Road, Barton on Sea, New Milton, Hants. BH25 7PB.

Continental Model Supplies

Continental Model Supplies continue to add to their range of 1:76 scale resin and metal kits. Among the latest additions are MAC-16, the Bedford MW Water tanker and MAC-7, the AMX-10 armoured car. I've always liked the little Bedfords and this one is probably amongst the best I've seen, certainly in the tanker configuration. It's nicely packed, with a colour photo of a completed model on the box, and includes an exploded assembly diagram. It isn't a difficult kit to assemble and the quality of both resin and metal castings is very good. To be fair there isn't much more I can say about it, but if you like these little British trucks then you will like this one.

The AMX 10 is a much chunkier model of course, but is again fairly simple to build. The hull and turret are cast in polyurethane resin, along with some turret stowage. The remainder is in metal, including the wheels and it was the latter items that struck me as a rather original method of production in this smaller scale. Cast in metal, each wheel consists of the hub and the tyre as separate parts for assembly. The result is that the detail on both comes out beautifully crisp. They are a fairly loose fit, so either solder from the back, or a thick gap-filling super glue would be ideal. With six large metal wheels, it gives lends a good bit of weight to the model. A clear assembly diagram is again provided.

CMSC continue to add some high quality products to their still relatively new range, and are well worth checking out. Contact Continental Model Supplies, 36 Gray Gardens, Rainham, Essex, RM13 7NH.

F&F Models

A new producer to me, is Plus Model, from the Czech Republic, imported to the UK by F&F Models who advertise here in ***Military Modelling***. The model is a 1:35 scale conversion set for either the Italeri Opel Blitz or the Mercedes L3000. For me it will go with the Italeri Mercedes because I feel the truck body in this kit was a bit boring, the same as was in the older Opel Blitz kit. So, the Mercedes is the one for me. Hold on though, a number of people have raised the problem of the wrong wheels in the Mercedes kit, so the answer is the update set from Scale Model Accessories, which includes the correct wheels and other details such as the dashboard for the cab. So with the cab and chassis sorted out, along comes the Plus Model Radio Body.

It's packed in a flimsy box,

Matador Models' 1:76 scale armoured loco and tender.

which seems fairly common for products from Eastern Europe and although there is expanded polystyrene packing inside, there is still a danger of damage in the post if it has not been carefully packed. The kit itself is delightful, with polyurethane resin and etched brass parts, plus a comprehensive instruction sheet that is very well produced, with both Czech and English text, beside each steps on the exploded diagram. Probably the most complex part is the radio aerial, which is, without doubt, the best of these that I have ever seen. On it are the four pulley wheels which wound it up/down assembling from etched disks and handles which give that something extra to the finished item. It's not a kit to be rushed, and if you really want to (I don't or I'll never finish it) you could add the interior detail to the body. It is a pleasure to see a product from a new manufacturer, especially when it is as neatly produced as this one is. I look forward to seeing what will follow from Plus Model.

Fuman

Returning to the Fuman (ex-Bandai) 1:48 scale kits, two of the smaller ones are the *Hetzer* and *Kübelwagen. The Hetzer* is a neat little model, though my example did have a little flash on some of the mouldings, but it wasn't difficult to deal with using nothing more than a craft knife. This is just a sign of their age (I know how they feel!). Otherwise assembly is straightforward, and the fit of parts is fine. After fitting the usual engine and interior details they provide, it begs to be left with open hatches, along with painting it in an 'ambush' scheme. Once a model is complete you can't see a huge amount of the interior, so what is provided is fine to give the impression of the whole thing when viewed up close through an open hatch. Better than just empty space. With the number of 1:35 scale resin interiors now on the market, and with the recent Academy Tiger with interior detail, it shows just how far ahead of their time these kits were when first released back in the 1970s.

The *Kübelwagen* is one of the smallest in the range and it makes up into a little beauty. The engine detail is there and the rear hatch can be left open to show it all too. With the revival of interest in 1:48 scale in recent years these deserve to get the level of interest from modellers that they didn't perhaps get originally. Thanks to Parabellum Models, 28 Starcross Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7BP, who are the importers.

The Show Modelling

The Show Modelling 1:35 scale photo-etched brass detailing sets are imported into the UK by Historex Agents, and there are three more to cover this month. One is for the *Panther Ausf G,* which is essentially the engine deck screens plus some tiny bolt heads as separate parts to be fitted. Additionally on the fret are some Panzer crew uniform badges, such as a set each of collar tabs, epaulettes, belt buckle and a couple of Iron Crosses. Absolutely the finest detail included on these, even at such tiny sizes.

Two complementary sets, or what The Show Modelling describe as Vol 1 and Vol 2, are for the *PzKpfw IV Ausf J,* and obviously aimed at the fairly recent Tamiya kit. The main contents of Vol 1 involve the various tool tie downs, padlocks, some tools and other brackets and supports, and once again, some tiny bolt heads - a block of some 80 of them! Vol 2 has both front and rear sections for the track guards, plus their hinges to be made up, some more supports, more bolt heads, and seemingly to use some left over space, another Iron Cross is lurking in one corner.

One of the nice things about these sets is that they are using the material for what it's best for, and if you want to really add the finest level of detail to your model AFV then these will give you that opportunity. If you are a bit ham-fisted, or just don't have the patience to fit some of these really tiny pieces, then etched brass sets such as these are not for you. Either you will only use the main bits or they will sit unused in a corner somewhere. Once you've seen a model finished with them, however, it may well tempt you into giving them a try. The Panther set would be a good one to start with I reckon and it is available, along with the rest of The Show Modelling range, from Historex Agents at Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ.

Minitanks

Recent additions to the Minitanks range of 1:87 scale models have arrived from King & Sons, the UK importers. These include Kit no 578 (price £13.72) the *Bergeraumgerat,* an interesting version of the Unimog, used I believe by the German Border Police fitted with a larger crew cab, behind which is a HIAB crane, and behind that a small load area with tilt cover. A hydraulic shovel is carried on the front making, in effect, a simple engineers' vehicle. It features on the cover of the current Minitanks catalogue and it is a very interesting looking little truck that will stand out in any collection of modern military trucks. It is beautifully made to the current, high Minitanks' standard, and does include a small decal sheet that includes the HIAB badges to go on the side arm of the crane.

Not new as the Unimog is another version of the Volkswagen Minibus marked for the Gendarmerie, as Kit no 410, price £7.10p. Still a very neat model, with wing mirrors to be fitted to the doors, I'm sure many will never notice that the rear door does open! All Minitanks models are available from R.G. King & Son, 32 London Road, Teynham, Kent ME9 9QN. For UK customers only, use Freepost SEA0265, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 9BR.

Airfield Accessories

Airfield Accessories have added another 1:48 scale tanker trailer to their range the German AH454. Once again, it is a scaled down version of the 1:35 scale model and the main body is cast in polyurethane resin. Very crisp castings they are too these days, and a great improvement over some of their very first releases. I particularly like the side panels which have removable panels over the side stowage bins, giving the option of modelling them open. However, if you want them closed, I found the panels fitted perfectly. The wheels and axles plus other little details are cast in white metal. A comprehensive set of assembly instructions are provided and the whole thing is packaged in their usual style boxes. All in all a well-produced model. Airfield Accessories are at 23 Clarence Road, Capel-le-Ferne, Nr Folkestone, Kent CT18 7LW.

Magazines

The Journal of Military Ordnance for January '97 has some very useful features in for modellers. The lead article covers US Armor Markings of WWI, colours markings and organisation, plus some interesting photos of US operated Renault FT17s. The BTR-70 Zhalo-S 85mm SP was a new one on me, a prototype pictured in a shed at Kubinka which looks quite different. Then some super details of the T1E3 'Aunt Jemima' mine exploder disc equipment, very useful for modellers this one. Coverage of the South African Defence Equipment Exhibition and a modelling article on the Atomic Cannon. Add to this one or two other smaller bits and pieces, but I think the ones I've mentioned will be the most welcome. Available from Darlington productions, PO Box 5884, Darlington, MD 21034, USA

From the same source comes *Boresight,* the magazine of the American AMPS (Armor Modelling and Preservation Society). Their January issue has reviews on an I-Corps Model of the M60 AVLB, an ambitious subject. I have to say that I have never had the opportunity to see any products from this company first hand, and this coverage doesn't encourage me to go out and buy one! In addition, there is the CMK 3.7cm *Flak* kit, which I have to say is not without its faults, but it is an unusual subject and not too bad for its price. It does not, however, compare with the current standards of injection moulding set by the Tamiya's and Dragon's of this world. A nice article on improving the old Tamiya Universal Carrier and making use of the Resicast update set, the ADV/Azimut AMX-10RC armoured car and a test-shot of the upcoming Academy M18. One or two other bits and pieces plus their regular columns. Available from AMPS, PO Box 331, Darlington, MD 21034, USA

Nearer to home, *Tankette,* the MAFVA magazine issue 32/1 has some very useful pics and 1:76 drawings of T80UM 1993 from Steve Zaloga, 1:35 plans for an Israeli armoured jeep, another in the series on the colours and markings of the Greek Army, 1:35 plans for the Land Rover CAV 100(Composite Armoured Land Rover), general arrangement drawings of the interior of the LVT-4 with 20mm Polsten gun mount, and some useful 1:76 drawings of the *Bruckenleger PzKpfw 1 Ausf A* (Bridge layer on the Panzer 1A chassis), the start of a new series on British Tank Unit organisation 1916-1918, and finally some 1:76 plans of the YPR-765 PRAT TOW vehicle. Again there are other bits, but I reckon there should be enough here to tempt you anyway. A year's membership in the UK is just £7, which includes the receipt of *Tankette.* Contact MAFVA at 15 Berwick Avenue, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 3AA. ■

OBSERVATION POST

NEWS FOR WARGAMERS
BY STUART ASQUITH

LEFT: A couple of well-dressed gentlefolk, sat at table and attended by two of their servants, part of the Redoubt Enterprises' range of 25mm figures.

FIASCO Wargames Awards

The annual FIASCO Wargame Awards gives wargamers the chance to have their say about the best in the hobby. The categories are as follows:
Best mail order service.
Best wargames rules.
Best wargames magazine.
Best detailed, cast and modelled 15mm figures.
Best detailed, cast and modelled 25mm figures.
Best board game (please state maker).
Best computer wargame (please state maker).
Best role play game (please state maker).

Votes by post for the first and second choice in each category are requested on an A4 sheet and should be sent to FIASCO Wargames Awards, 27 Armley Grange Mount, Leeds LS12 3QB to be received by Monday 2nd June 1997. The Awards are presented at FIASCO on 21st June at the Armley Sports Centre, Carr Crofts, Armley, Leeds 12.

NOW '97

The Norfolk Organisation of Wargamers present NOW '97 on Saturday 12th July 1997 from 10am to 5pm at St. Andrew's Hall, Norwich. Admission is £1.50 (children 50p) and there will be 30 traders, many participation games, a bring and buy, plus displays by the British Model Soldier Society and the Flat Figure Society. General enquiries to Kim Daniels 01362 691057, wargamers contact Malcolm Eve 01362 695115 and traders Peter Bateman 01603 898641.

To the Redoubt '97

The Eastbourne Men-At-Arms Wargames Society - *To The Redoubt* - will take place at the Eastbourne Redoubt on the 19th and 20th of July 1997. The event is sponsored by Redoubt Enterprises and Battle Group Figures and there will be participation games, display games, trade stands and re-enactment groups, all in the great atmosphere of a Napoleonic fortress situated right on the sea front. Admission is £2.50, £1.25 for OAPs and under 12s, which includes entrance to the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, the Royal Sussex Regiment and Combined Services Museums. There is a tea room and bar on the premises, there are lots of local activity close by for all the family to enjoy and there are car parks close to the venue.

Humberside Wargames Society

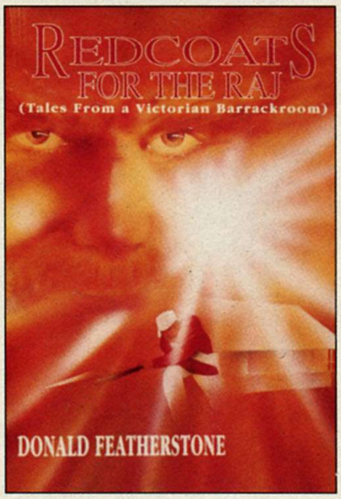
The Humberside Wargames Society have their own secure premises in the centre of Hull at 2nd/3rd Floor, 45-47 Savile Court, Savile Street, Hull HU1 3EE. These are available for the use of members at any time - there are two large games rooms, one smoking and one non-smoking. Figure games in most periods and scales are played, along with various card and role playing games. New members are always welcome, contact the Secretary, Anthony Barr, 1 The Woodlands, Goddard Avenue, Hull HU5 2BW.

New From Redoubt

Redoubt Enterprises (49 Channel View Road Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 7LN) have added a number of vignettes to their extensive 25mm ECW range. Firstly 'Forlorn Hope' features two dismounted dragoons carrying a petard, one with a coil of fuse, one with hammer and nails, one with a wood axe, one with a beam, one kneeling and firing and, one standing and firing. 'Court Martial' or 'Court of Enquiry' is a set with a table and chairs, two seated officers, an officer reading charges, a standing prisoner, a dismounted dragoon on guard, a sergeant with a halberd and a drummer. Punishment is the next theme with a figure sitting in the stocks, another standing in the stocks, one with a 'stock collar' and one unfortunate in chains. On a gentler note, there is a couple sat at table with two servants in attendance and three trades people.

Indian Scenery

Ian Weekley has a range of 25mm Indian scenic items. These would be particularly useful for *Wellington in India* scenarios and consist of three items, an open arch and gateway for a city or castle (£7.50), linking wall with wall walk (£7.50) and a large tower (£9.50) which is eight inches (20cm) tall. Ian also offers a few similar pieces with slight battle damage in 15mm. Combinations of these features painted in matt sand and sandy grey colours make up frontages for a walled city or castle. For conversion or alteration the walls may be easily sawn to any size required. Also available is a rather nice Indian style house in 15mm (£3.20) or quite substantial 25mm (£7) - the frieze of arches in relief along the side of the house(s) looks particularly effective. For further information, send an A4 ssae to Ian Weekley Models, The Old Anchor, Lammas, Norwich, Norfolk NR10 5AF.



Redcoats for the Raj

Redcoats for the Raj (Tales From a Victorian Barrackroom) by Donald Featherstone is the story of some of the men who made Imperial India possible. They belonged to the underside of Victoria's 'jewel in the crown'. Great Britain totally controlled the Indian sub-continent, not always through enlightened government, but by force of arms. The Great Mutiny was put down, as were all other rebellions by men just like those about which the author writes - long serving, hard-drinking, stubborn, bigoted and wilting in the stifling heat of the barrack room of Aliwal Lines in India 1868.

Whilst the author is well known for his prolific writing of wargame books, this his latest work is a novel and has no direct relation to wargaming, other than to provide some extremely atmospheric background to campaigning in India during the reign of Victoria. The book is a good read and well written, but one word of caution - due to the strong language contained in the narrative, it is not recommended as being suitable for readers of tender years or disposition. Available from any book shop, price £15.99, the book is also available directly from the publisher (Valda Publishing, 4 Abbey Walk, Church Street, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8BU) for £15.99 post paid.

The Felixian

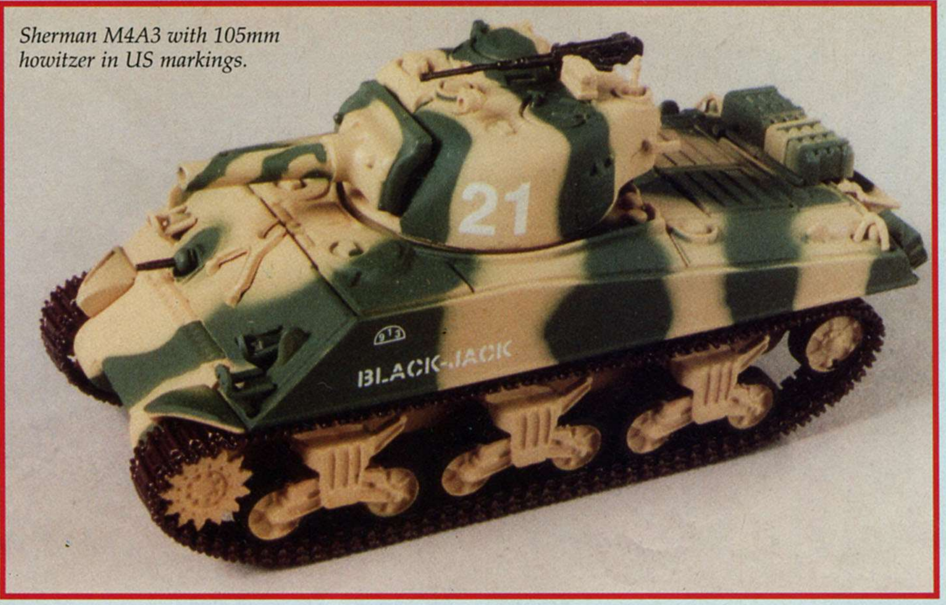
The first issue of a house journal of gaming from Felix Enterprises, featuring articles on their products and on other gaming systems. In this issue - a scenario for Cold Iron; Fox Two! testing your plot's skills; *Star Trek* Full Thrust; a scenario based around the second English Civil War. £2.25 per issue (plus 50p postage UK and BFPO, £1.50 overseas). Cheques or postal orders payable to Felix Enterprises. Copies and further details from James F Clay, Felix Enterprises, The Copse, Shiplate Road, Bleadon, Weston Super Mare, Avon BS24 0NX.

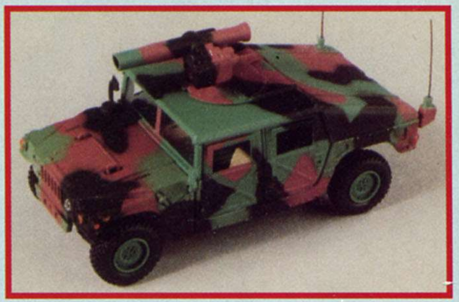
Arquebusier

Bi-monthly journal of The Pike and Shot Society
Issue 124. The Papal Army at the Beginning of the Italian Wars; A Chronology of the Italian Wars; The Stradiots in the Italian Wars; The Army of Louis XII 1498-1515, etc. Annual subscription £12 UK, Europe and elsewhere surface £14, airmail £19. Details from Ian Wilson Membership Secretary, 66 Westbury Road, Coundon, Coventry CV5 8KY.

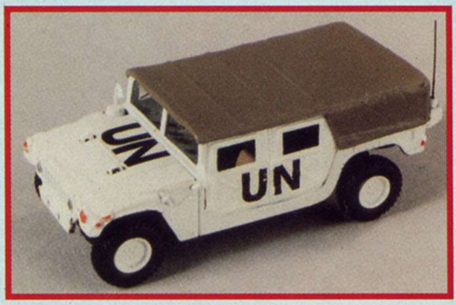
Orcs in the Hills

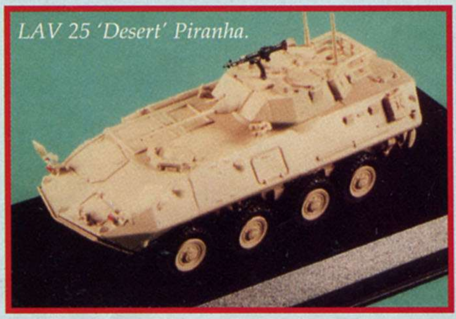
Volume 1 Issue 4. Sharke's Trousers; Rat Trap; Sharke's EuroGenCon; Rebellion in the Colonies! Native Human Scouts, etc. This is the 'fanzine' for all players of *Flintloque* - if you like the game, then you'll love this magazine! Orcs in the Hills is a quarterly publication and annual subscriptions are £10 UK/BFPO/USFO, £12.50 Europe, £15 elsewhere, Payment should be by cheque or postal order in pounds sterling to Wessex Games, 4 Old Acre Road, Whitchurch, Bristol BS14 0HN.


Sherman M4A3 with 105mm howitzer in US markings.



ABOVE: M966 Hummer 'Tank Hunter' with TOW launcher mounted. BELOW: M998 Hummer 'Commando' in UN markings.




LAV 25 'Desert' Piranha.

CDC's Armour Collection

Andrew Wilson looks at a new range of diecast military models

Ready-built models of military subjects have generally been few and far between. Dinky, Britain's and Spot-on have all produced a small number of tanks, lorries and other wheeled vehicles. Some of the most famous and sought-after models have been military subjects, notably the Dinky Honest John rocket launcher, however, only Solido have produced anything approaching a comprehensive range and this is largely out of production now. In addition, it is fair to say that good as these models are, none approach the level of detail and accuracy required by the dedicated military collector and consequently, plastic kits have to fit the bill.

This situation is about to change with the launch of a new range of die-cast military models from the Milan based C.D.C. company. The Armour Collection, as it is called, is a series of WWII and more modern vehicles built to high standards and to a constant 1:72 scale, making them ideal for military model collectors, wargamers and diorama builders, as they match with many aircraft in this scale. The range is currently limited to just five vehicles, but it is sure to grow and, in fact, 34 different variants of these five vehicles are either in or shortly to be in production. They are supplied in a clear plastic display box with the model attached by self-tapping screw to an oblong shape black plastic base carrying the title of

Vehicles currently available include six versions of the four-wheel drive utility Hummer, including 'tank hunter', 'desert patrol' and 'commando' versions; six models of the LAV 25 Piranha, and seven versions of the Sherman M4, including A2 and A3 variants. As well as the various equipment options, there are also three colour schemes, camouflage, desert and United Nations' white. Future models will include the German *PzKpfw IV* of WWII and the US 2.5 ton truck.

All of the models are very detailed and well put together and it is clear that there has been a significant investment in developing this range. Taking the Sherman as an example, they compare extremely favourably with the similar 1:72 scale Airfix kits in terms of detail and have the advantage of being of metal construction. In essence they are kits that have been hand assembled and painted before being offered for sale.

In diecast model terms, the attention to detail is truly excellent. The M4-A3 Sherman variant comes in three 75 mm colour schemes - UK, US, and French and a fourth US version is also available with the larger 105 mm gun. The A2 comes in three versions, French, US and UK and has the standard 76 mm gun on the later turret design.

Taking the A2 US version as an example, it comes in a uniform green colour scheme, with separate .50 cal turret-mounted machine-gun and ammunition box, separate aerial, hull mounted machine-gun, silver front lights and red rear ones, separate wheels and plastic tracks, shovel and ammunition boxes mounted on the body. The turret also revolves. The A3 comes in a variety of more colourful camouflage schemes, including black and sand and brown on green and is distinguished by a different turret design These really are superb value for money at £17.99.

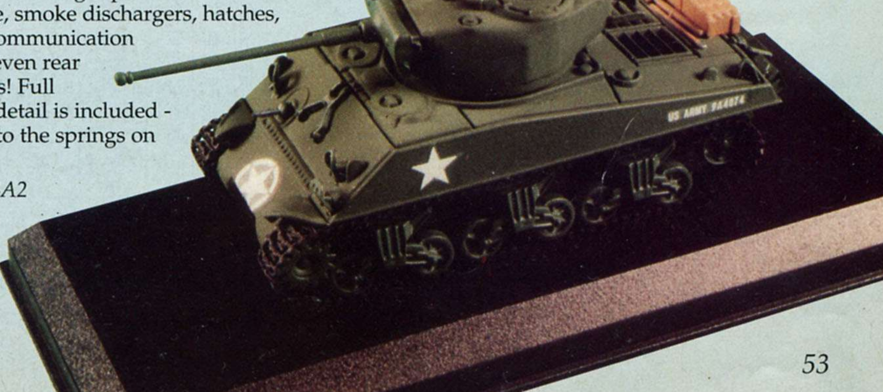
Moving up to date...

The eight wheel LAV 25 armoured troop carrier also comes in a number of versions: 'tank hunter' complete with rocket launcher in either sand or sand/green colour schemes, two 90mm assault gun versions, and three Piranha versions with armoured car turret and turret mounted machine-gun. These are in desert, green and UN white versions. Construction is just as good as the Shermans and they are just as detailed, including separate side mounted exhaust pipe, smoke dischargers, hatches, super thin communication aerials and even rear view mirrors! Full underbody detail is included - right down to the springs on the suspension units. These are even better value at £16.99.

Finally, the versatile Hummer has also been modelled and is available in a number of versions. These include a patrol car, complete with roof mounted machine-gun, a 'tank hunter' with a roof mounted anti-tank weapon and a canvas topped troop carrier. All models have tiny glass headlamps, orange painted indicators, rear mounted aerials, suspension, rear view mirrors, interior seating and steering wheels. Keeping to the 1:72 scale, the Hummers are obviously a lot smaller than the other vehicles in the range, but they are still attractive and accurate models. Prices are also slightly cheaper at £14.99.

Availability

The CDC range of diecast metal models is imported into the UK by Richard Kohnstam, 13-15a High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 3AD. ■



Sherman M4A2 with 76mm gun in US Army markings.

Mike Squire's Crusader in its attractive frame. BELOW: Punchinello.

Class 10.
SINGLE FLAT FIGURES
Judges Commendation

Class 10 for Single Flat Figures.

Euro's Flat Figure Classes ...

.With the 12th Euro Militaire approaching this coming September Alan Topliss of the British Flat Figure Society discusses the classes and offers a brief résumé of last year's entries

BONAPARTE
ANNIBAL
KAROLUS MAGNUS

ABOVE LEFT: Voltaire and Frederick by Patrick Bougrat. ABOVE RIGHT: Napoleon crossing the Alps painted by Raul Garcia Latorre.

Over the weekend of the 28th/29th September last the 11th annual Euro - Militaire was held, where the entries totalled nearly 900 exhibits over the 17 competition classes. Others will, no doubt, record their thoughts upon the multitude of 'round' figures, but I will concentrate upon the three main categories containing the 'flat' figures. Only briefly mentioning an item in Class 17.

Flats classes

For those not familiar with the Euro Militaire Flats categories they are:
Class 10 Single Flat Figures.
Class 11 Flat Figure Groups.
Class 12 Flat Figures Dioramas.

Although not a specific 'flats class', Class 17 Miscellaneous (converted/scratch-built civilian) is a choice for flats painters with civilian subjects to enter.

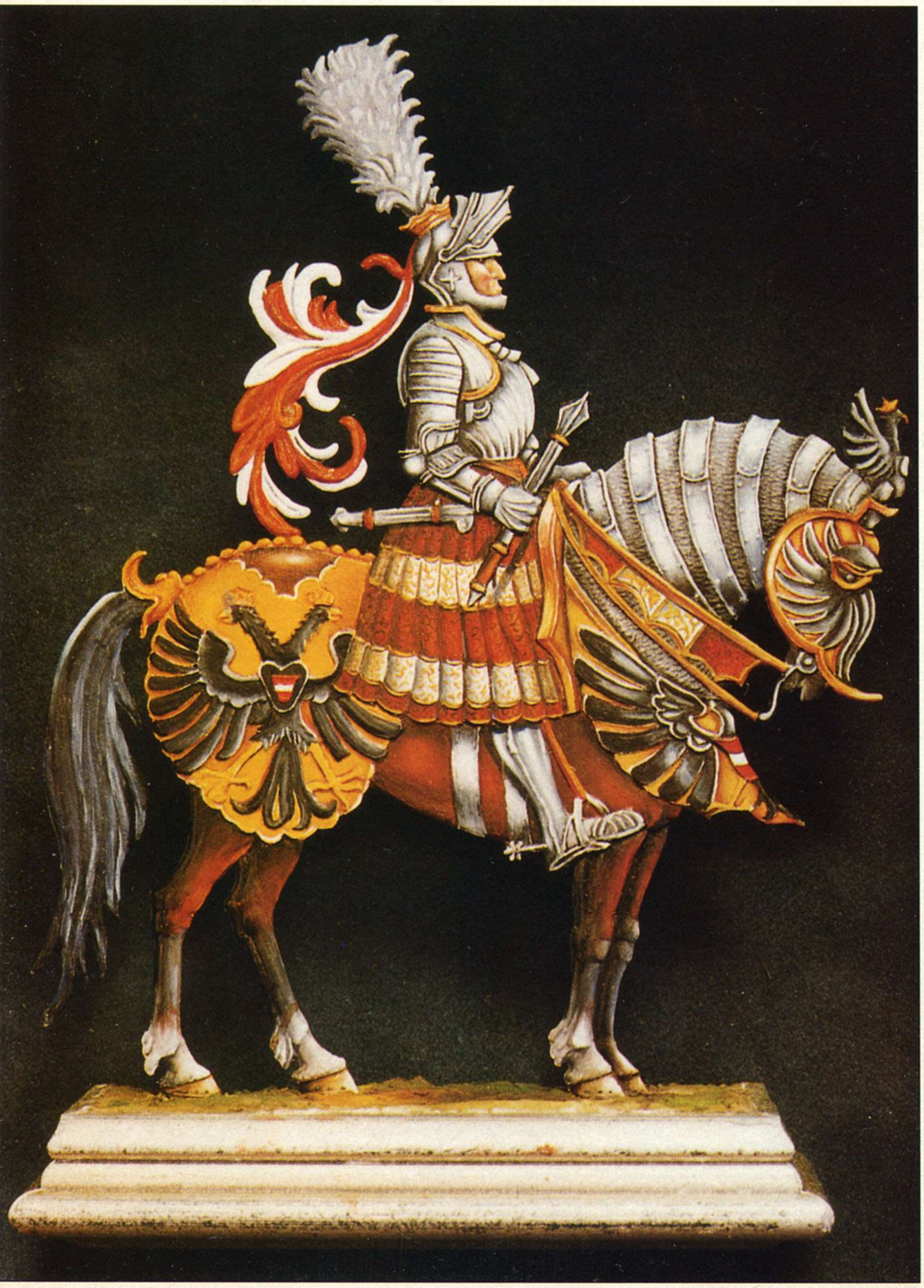
Within the three main classes there were approximately 30 entrants all mounted within a frames, like pictures. These were mostly within categories 10 11.

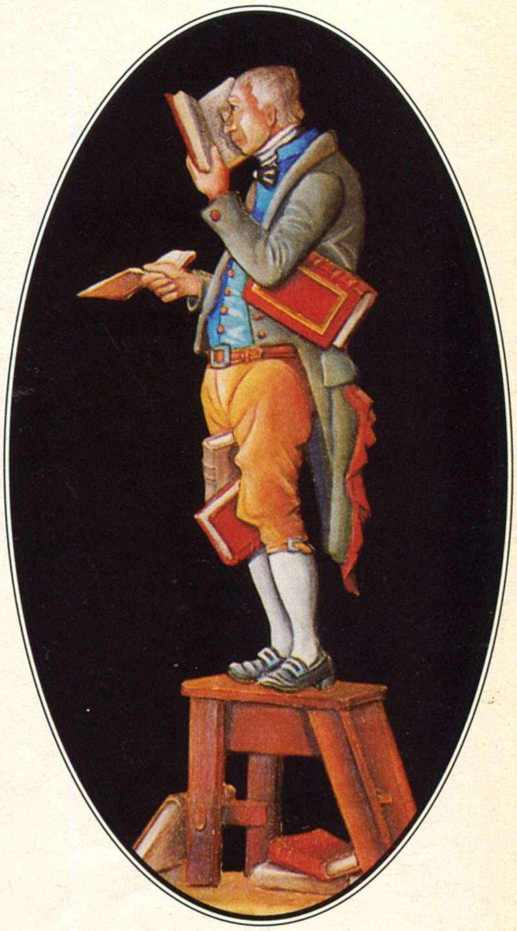
Category 10 (single flat figures) had approximately 16 entrants, varying in scale from 30mm to 120mm the subjects ranging from a rodent nibbling upon a piece of cheese ('A Tasty Nibble'), three exhibits of Cardinal Richlieu (Editor Historia Müller), four examples from the Quadri Concept range, one a mounted kettle drummer, the others being single figures all Napoleonic cavalry related. One gained a judges' commendation, a large scale piece of the 'The Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I' (Editor Werner Scholtz), 100mm.

An example of the G & M Miniatures range was also entered depicting Louis XIV, but under a different title, this too gaining a judges' commendation; a Crusader (30mm) within a very nice oval frame, a representation of the art of Carl Spitsweg in approximately 90mm of 'The Book Worm', a studious fellow perched upon a library stool with his head in a book.

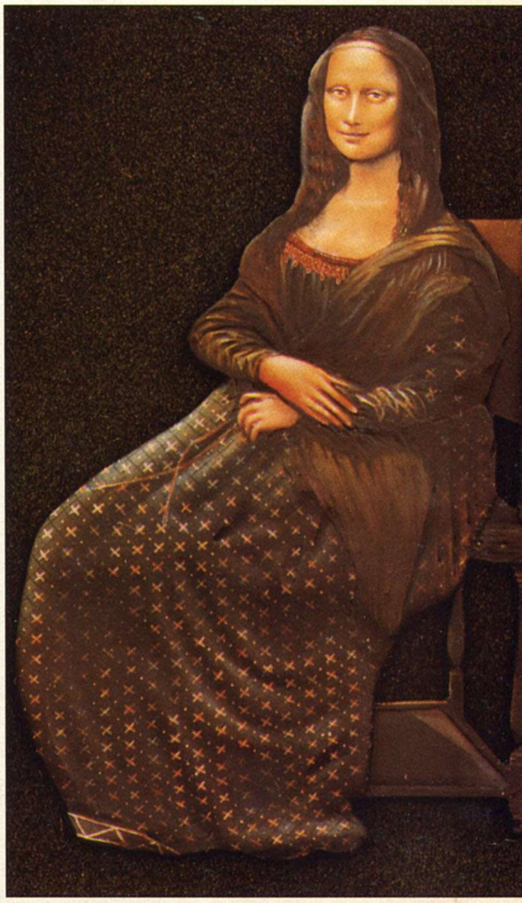
There were only two Gold medals awarded within Class 10 - one going to a superb example of the art in 30mm scale of the romantic pose of Napoleon's crossing of the Alps (Editor Segom) and the other awarded to a piece entitled 'Checkmate' a *Commedia Dell'Arte* piece, (Editor Historia Muller titled 'Tartaglia'). This figure is illustrated within the small book *Commedia Dell'Arte* by Maurice Sands (ISBN 3-458-19007-4), but here

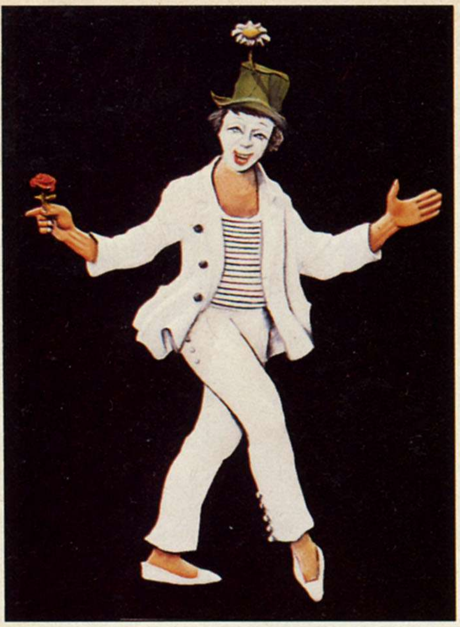
ABOVE: Class 11 for Flat Figure Groups. BELOW: Emperor Maximilian I.



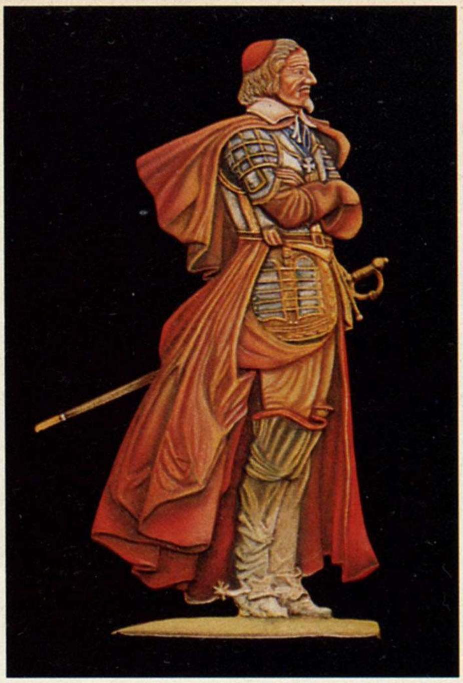


ABOVE: 'The Book Worm', a representation of the art of Carl Spitsweg, approximately 90mm. BELOW: Gold Medal winning 'Mona Lisa' by Canadian painter Rick Taylor ... is it a flat or a painting?.

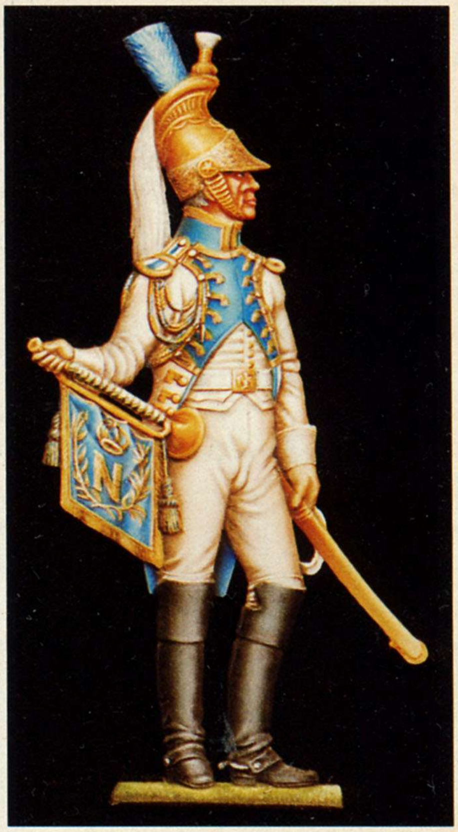




Marcel Marceaux!



One of the three flats of Cardinal Richlieu (Editor Historia Müller).



Large scale Quadri Concept flats from France.

he is in a green suit lined with yellow, whereas the figure upon display was dressed in a suit of small black and white checks and the execution of which had to be seen to be believed. Oh, how the painter must have been relieved upon the completion of that final square

Another figure from within this set and by the same artist was 'Punchinello', but this received only a judges' commendation. Also, an interesting figure of the French mime artist Marcel Marceaux was entered, but achieved no recognition.

Class 11 supported approximately 12 pieces, some quite large (frames) the largest holding over eight pieces from the Quadri Concept range, again these depicting Napoleonic kettle drummers, trumpeters, along with various dismounted cavalry figures and all 90mm. A framed set of the Three Musketeers, Aramis, Arthos, Porthos and d'Artagnan (Editor Historia Muller) also appeared. Here several representations of single piece multi-figured groups were to be found 'The Fruit Stealers' (Editor Regina Sonntag), Highlanders in conflict with French cavalry 'Quatre Bras' (Editor Jacques Vullings).

Within this category were to be found several non-military figures, (which I think help to indicate to the public that not all flats are of a military nature) by this I mean the 'Four Seasons', Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn, depicted again within a large frame (yet again Editor Historia Muller) and a Frog singing under a flower aside a Dandelion entitled, "Napoleon's Solo".

Class 12 is the diorama class where entries must be on a scenic base or boxed and was supported by only three entries, these being;
1. The Coronation of Napoleon. (A scene within the cathedral of Notre Dame, the Pope crowning Napoleon Emperor of the French).
2. A Portrait of the King of Rome (A scene within the camp of Napoleon on the eve of the battle of Borodino). 3. A skating scene.

Miscellaneous

Now, within Class 17 there was a 'flat' - ? Well, this is where I ask you, the reader, to define this item. This figure depicted the famous painting of The Mona Lisa and it was awarded a Gold Medal and its execution in reproduction was exceptional, how the artist achieved the result I do not know, but I envy his skill and artistry.

However, I feel I must ask, in future are the competitor and judges to be presented with miniature 'framed canvasses' as genuine competition entries to be competed and judged against?

Unfortunately I was not able to have time to record all the details of the items on show within the 'flats' categories especially the dioramas and would appreciate persons who did enter contacting me via the Editor with their details. If I have it, I will supply a photograph of their work by return.

I hope I have given an unbiased view of the event although I have only dealt with a small section of it, and so I will allow the photographs to have the last comment and speak for themselves of the quality of work upon view for the visitor. ■

Peter Wessel by Brian Petersen.

A NEXUS SPECIAL INTERESTS EVENT
EURO·
MILITAIRE
THE INTERNATIONAL
MILITARY MODELLING
EXHIBITION
27-28 September 1997
Folkestone

Euro Militaire 1997

If you would like to enter the competition at Euro Militaire it will take place at its usual venue of The Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, Kent over the weekend of 27th - 28th September. Models can be registered in the competition on the Saturday morning and there is an entry fee of £1.50 per model, but juniors are free.

Copies of the competition rules are available. For your free copy send a stamped self addressed envelope to **Military Modelling Magazine, EURO COMP RULES, Nexus House, Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7ST.**

EURO·
MILITAIRE

SPONSORED BY NEXUS

Euro-Militaire
Competition Rules

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

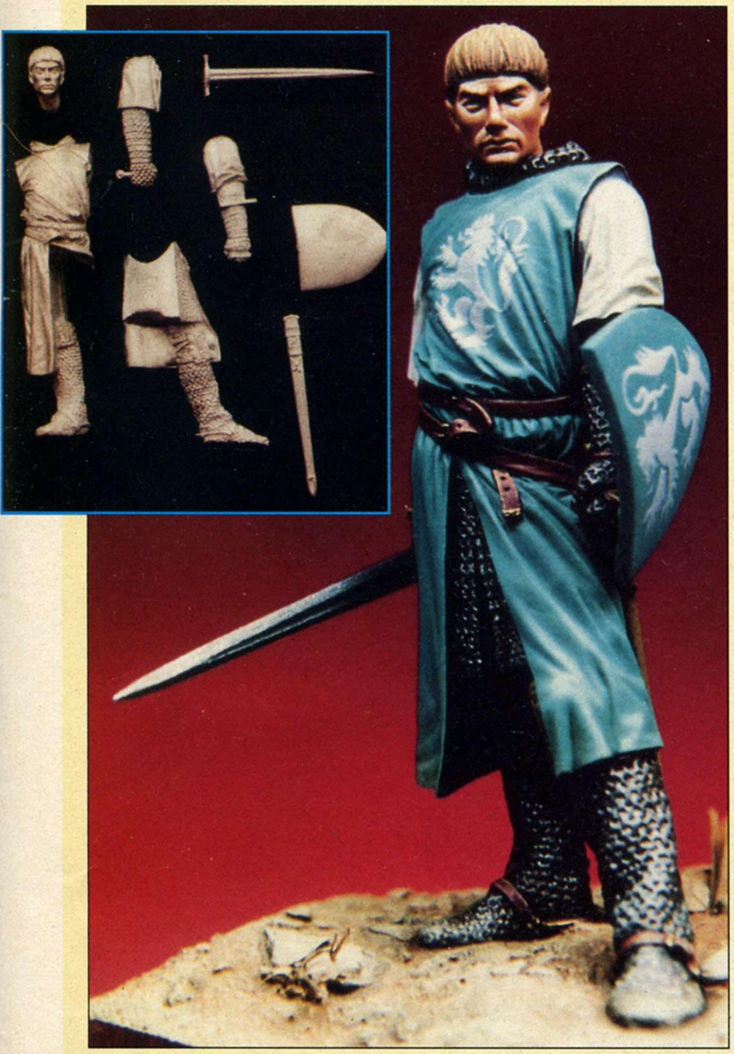
The sponsors of Euro-Militaire reserve the right to photograph any model entered in the competition with a view to publication in future Euro-Militaire publications or promotional literature

Coloured markers that are applied to the bases of certain models during the competitions are for photographic purposes only

ATTEN-SHUN!

The Editor welcomes product samples for review which should be sent to the Editorial Offices, Nexus House Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP2 7ST. Unless a prior arrangement has been made with the Editor, review samples will not be returned.

NEW PRODUCTS REVIEWED



Elite Miniatures

A Norman Knight at Antioch 1268 is the latest 54mm white metal figure kit from Spanish Manufacturer, Elite Miniatures. The figure was designed by Raúl García Latorre, a name that will be well known to anyone who has attended Euro Militaire for the past two years, where this young modeller/designer has received due accolade for his expertise in competitions, repeated at the Paris Mondiale and SCAMMS in California.

His latest design is an excellent study; the knight has a defiant air transmitted through the stance conceived by the designer. It's good from whatever angle you look at it. It all fits together without any problems, but a wipe of filler is needed around the left leg/hip to body join, which follows a natural break around the sword belt. The standard of detailing on the casting is high; it's sharply defined. When you assemble the model make sure you get the head at precisely the correct angle and attitude shown in the boxtop illustration - otherwise you will not capture the 'defiant' stance the designer intended.

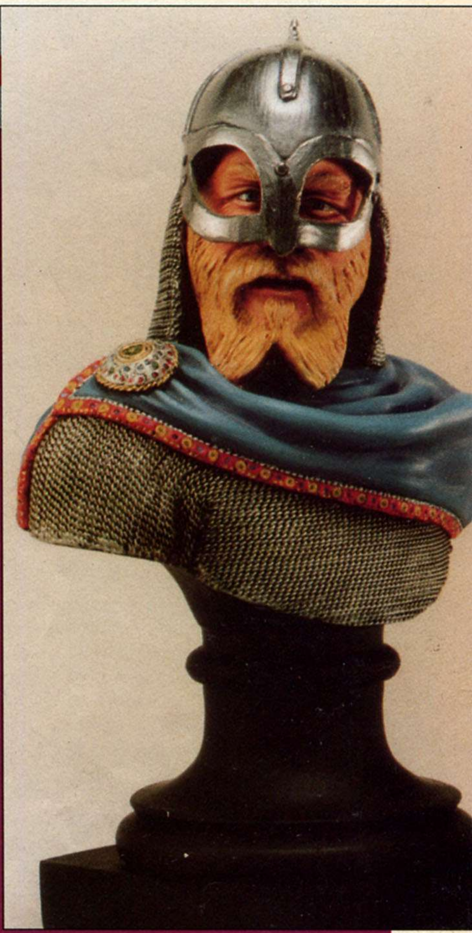
You can paint it to your own design or follow Raúl Latorre's superbly painted example on the boxtop. If you like to paint medieval figures you'll definitely like this one. I don't think there isn't one single point I don't like about it. I look forward to seeing more from this keen young Spanish figure designer.

Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ, stock the Elite range.

K.M.J.

Price £9.95 plus 60p p&p
Elite Miniaturas, Peso de la Harina 17, 29007 Málaga, Spain.

The Imperial Gallery



A new 1:9 scale resin and white metal bust of a Viking has been released into The Imperial Gallery's range as IG/C/03. There are three polyurethane resin parts, head body and base with the 'spectacles' eye protectors for the helmet cast in white metal.

The castings are clean and beautifully detailed, the mail being especially fine. There is a sprue from the moulding process which needs to be carefully removed from the top of the helmet, but assembly presents no problems and the proof will be a careful 'paint job'. Don't forget to leave off the white metal eye protectors from the helmet until you've painting the face. Forthcoming model kits are IG/A/34 a 120mm Marine, Mountain and Arctic Cadre and two new 175mm resin and white metal figure kits IG/G/01 Fire-fighter and IG/G/02 Colour Sergeant Coldstream Guards Crimea.

K.M.J.

Price £18
The Imperial Gallery, 14 Queenswood Drive, Norton Park, Worcester, WR5 3SZ.

Azimut Productions

I'm still not sure what makes me like these wooden box-bodied radio trucks that the Germans used so many of during WWII and I was pleased to see Azimut's 1:35 scale 35075 *Kfz 17/1 Horsch* kit appear last year. The basic Horsch was produced by Italeri some years ago now, yet I'm glad to see this is a complete kit cast in polyurethane resin and not just a set of conversion parts that needs the Italeri kit as well.

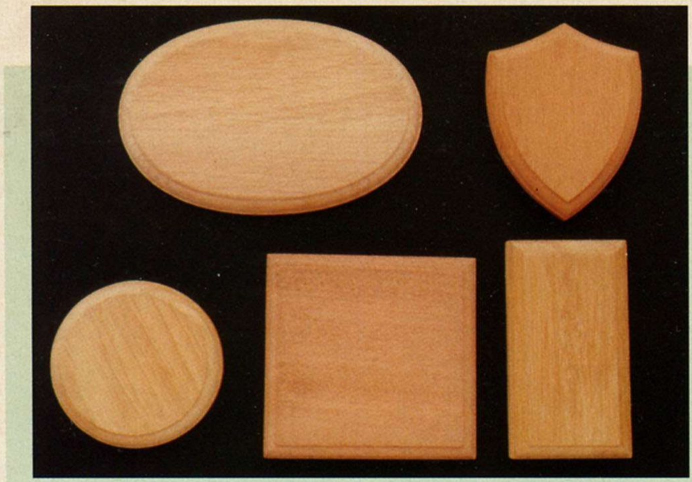
The chassis is quite straightforward, and some wire is supplied to go in as the axles within the suspension units. The wooden box bodywork is in some 10 parts (roof, rear panel, four doors and four side panels). These do take some lining up, especially as you will need to paint the interior before finally fitting the roof. It wasn't too bad, just don't hurry it and dry fit everything as you go along before applying the super glue. I especially liked the way the rear stowage compartment was modelled 'loaded' so inviting it to be fixed open.

A set of assembly diagrams is included and although I have been known to criticise Azimut for their instructions from time to time, these were fine. Cleaning up the resin parts was easy enough, removing some minor flash and the moulding plugs. Everything thing then went together without any problems.

Historex Agents stock some of the Azimut range but on checking don't appear to have this on their list, so you'll have to try direct from Azimut in France. Ed.

R.B.

Price on application
171 Rue de Charenton, 75012 Paris, France.



Briwood Bases

When you see a superb model, whether figure or vehicle, mounted on what appears to be a piece of firewood doesn't it make you think ...why? I suppose in my experience of model competitions, I've seen some pretty poor specimens trying to pass as model bases; there's nothing personal in this and that I find vehicle modellers are the outright winners of the 'stick it on anything you can find' brigade! Perhaps because they need bigger bases than a figure modeller does for a single 54mm miniature, but it doesn't have to be this way because wooden bases are so reasonable to buy, even those to your own specifications and this is where Briwood Bases, a new enterprise, enter the arena.

Briwood Bases has, like so many businesses in the military modelling sphere, grown from a hobby. Brian Stockley, the man behind Briwood, produces hardwood bases which are left unvarnished or polished; it is left for the modeller to complete, but it does keep down the price. Bases are made from Oak or Mahogany but Brian's list shows other wood such as Cherry (a nice wood!) Ash, Tulipwood and Iroko are sometimes available. The normal thickness of his bases is about 15mm up to 150mm diameter, going up to 25mm deep for bases over 150mm diameter. The shapes he produces are round, square, oblong, oval and shield (suitable for plaques and badges, etc.,) but he will produce a base to your requirement if you send a paper template and a description of what you want, for a price quote. Don't forget to send a SAE with your specifications.

The quality of the samples Brian sent to us is very good. The machined moulding which lets in about 10mm on the overall size was clean, and its edges sharp and well defined. Examples of prices are; round bases begin at RO.52 which is 52mm diameter for 40p to a whopping RO.305 at 305mm diameter for £4.50 - and there's another 24 standard sizes between these dimensions, enough to suit most tastes and requirements. The smallest oval base he does is OV.110mm x 63mm for 55p to a massive OV.406mm x 280mm.

Fancy producing your own club competition awards? Briwood Bases produce blank wooden shields in fancy and traditional shapes ranging in price from 60p for the smallest (SH.109 x 83 Trad) to the most expensive SH.387 x 353 Traditional at £7.50. Shields aren't all that easy to find and I'm pleased to be able to pass on Briwood as a source for these shapes.

How the base is finished is left to the customer; you can stain and polish the wood, or use a polyurethane wood varnish straight from the tin, but I'd advise rubbing down between two or more coats with a nice thinned coat of varnish to finish off. Alternatively you could wax polish the wood, but whatever you do, don't forget to either leave the area where the scenics are to go plain, or score the surface if you've polished or varnished it, otherwise it won't stick! Alternatively drill through and attach with a bolt or screw - especially for a vehicle.

Payment with order is required and postage is £1 on orders up to £5. Above £5 add 20% of total order. These are good quality bases and if you're getting a model ready for a competition, at these prices you now have no excuse for putting it on something undeserving. A good model deserves a good base.
K.M.J.

Prices in text
Briwood Bases, PO Box 2838,
Ferndown, Dorset BH22 0XY.
Tel: 01202 897568.

Willys MB Jeep
COLLECTOR'S SERIES
FROG
Quality Model Kits
1:48
SCALE

A fully detailed 1:48 scale model of the US Army's ubiquitous 'General Purpose' vehicle, made famous during World War II by its rugged construction and four wheel drive, which gave it legendary all terrain ability.

Finished kit size: 3.7cm (h) x 3.4cm (w) x 7.4cm (l) (12.5cm with trailer)

Frog Models

Two additions to the 1:48 scale Frog Models (Frog-Fuman) range of military vehicles have been sent to us for review by Hobby Bounties Ltd. - a Willys MB Jeep and trailer (NF-1010) and the M4A3 76mm Sherman. These kits are injection moulded plastic and add to a growing trend for military vehicles and figures in 1:48 scale.

The Jeep is moulded in Olive Green plastic and, with its trailer, is a highly detailed miniature. A separate sprue of four seated figures, in kit form, with M1 Rifles is included also. Decals are provided and the instruction sheet is clear and well produced. The Jeep has a separate chassis onto which the axles and springs, and drive shafts along with the transfer case attach. The body shell is made up from five parts into which all the fittings go and these include an engine and pioneer equipment. The bonnet (hood) can be left open to show the engine which can be detailed further if you so wish. A .50 cal machine-gun is an optional fitting as is the tilt cover which, if it isn't used, be represented by parts for its framework in the folded position. It can be built up in different configurations, with or without the trailer, and is a most useful kit for 1:48 scale aircraft modellers looking for something to enhance a

HUMBROL
THE COLOUR SYSTEM
HUMBROL
Enamel
COLOUR SYSTEM
ALL YOU'LL EVER NEED

Humbrol

The World famous Humbrol enamel paints have undergone major revisions and improvements for 1997 culminating into a new standardised range of colours that can be used with Humbrol's newly released 'Super Enamel Colour System'. You may have seen the free competition we, (and will, no doubt, see in other model magazines) began in Volume 27 Issue No. 3 to win the new Colour System.

Humbrol decided to improve their paint by using the latest state of the art computer-controlled colour matching and mixing equipment.

Sherman M4A3 76mm
COLLECTOR'S SERIES
FROG
Quality Model Kits
A fully detailed 1:48 scale model of the allies most numerous and versatile tank, which saw action in all theatres during World War II. The M4A3 was the final production version and saw action in Normandy following the D-Day landings.
Finished kit size: 5.7cm (h) x 5.9cm (w) x 15.0cm (l)
1:48
SCALE
GARAGE de BICYCLETTES
STAU

model display with ground equipment. It isn't the only Jeep now available in 1:48 scale, but for what you get for the price it's certainly one of the front runners and well worth considering. Price is £11.99.

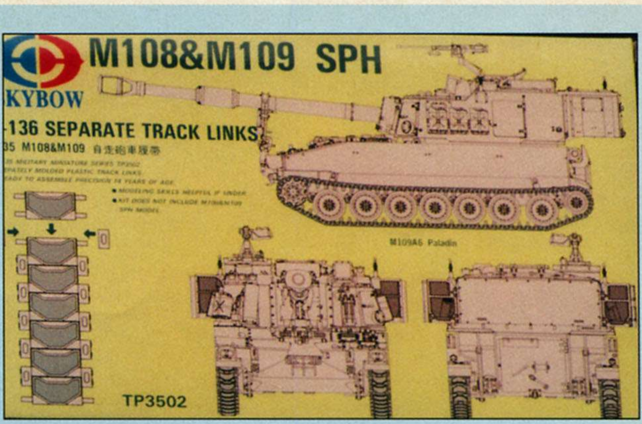
The 1:48 scale M4A3 Sherman has interior detail for the hull and turret, and there's quite a lot of it too when you consider the size of the model. In fact, it assembles more or less like a larger 1:35 scale kit. The engine is an excellent piece of work because in addition to the block there's also the carburettors, air filter units and cooling fans and their belt drives to fit into the engine compartment. The turret has a basket which is fitted out with the traverse mechanism control box, shells in racks, seats and the gun breech and co-axial machine-gun with their associated mountings. If you fancy a change from 1:35 scale give this smaller kit a try, you won't be disappointed. It costs £13.99

The box side panels carry illustrations for other 1:48 scale Frog Models - a German 8 ton half-track and a British Valentine Mark II tank.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Frog Models available from Hobby Bounties Ltd., Business and Technology Centre, Bessemer Drive, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2DX.



Skybow

Automated Handling Systems Inc of Taiwan are sole agents for Skybow, a new manufacturer of injection moulded plastic kits whose first product forwarded for review is TP3502, T-136 1:35 scale Separate Track Links for Italeri's M108 and M109 and M109A2 self-propelled guns.

The tracks are injection moulded black plastic and assemble in a prototype manner, joining together by pushing the outer clips onto the spigots on the outsides of each link. It's not as laborious as it sounds, but it is a little fiddly putting the clips on the track links, however, a little practice and the assembly speed soon increases. However, be careful that all of the track link block's chevrons are pointing the right way. Obvious? You'll be surprised how easy it is to get at least one facing the wrong way! Cementing is not recommended, the natural friction of the plastic being considered sufficient to hold everything together.

Listed as 'coming' on the box are TP3501 the LVTP5A1 and TP3504 LVTH6A1 both presumably track kits and TP3503 is the M38/M38A1C Jeep - hopefully, fingers crossed, a complete kit.

The price is quoted as US $7.50 though no sterling price or UK distributor is known as we go to press.

K.M.J.

Price in text

Automated Handling Systems Inc., 6FL (Han Sheng Building), No.59, Section 2, Chung Ching South Road, PO Box 5-103 Taipei, Taiwan. Fax (02) 393-6124 395-6918.

For the technically minded they have reduced the pigment particle size in their matt, gloss and satin enamel paints by 67%, going from 45 microns to 15 microns - quite a drop! The idea is to achieve the best finish possible from a conventional paint brush or airbrush application and they've certainly done that if you've tried any of the newly released enamels. They spray cleanly and the 'grit' we used to associate with some of the Humbrol paints, which they left in the airbrush despite thinning and straining, has virtually disappeared. Brush application with this new enamel is a little different and I'd recommend experimenting with the paint before committing yourself to putting it on to the model; not withstanding those who use the technique of not stirring the paint and lift up the pigment from the bottom of the tin and transfer it to a palette for mixing. The basic constituent parts of the paint haven't changed, but it's consistency is much improved.

The Humbrol enamels range has 151 colours and the chart showing the range should be available from their retailers. Where the Super Enamel Colour System comes in is that Humbrol have published a loose-leaf ring binder folder with paint colour chips giving a mixing system to produce a further 104 colours and they intend to add new colours to the system from time to time. A basic starter mixing kit which includes six empty 14 ml tinlets with blank labels, a mixing pot and a calibrated plastic syringe-type dispenser to transfer the paint for mixing, and six stirrers is now available.

The Colour System Binder has 11 colour chip pages showing the 151 standard colours and a further 21 colour chip pages displaying 231 'authentic' colours in three categories; 117 Military Aircraft; 54 Vehicles, Figures and Ships; 60 Railway colours. FS standard and other colour references are given where applicable under the colour chips; these are actual paint chips and not printed onto the card pages, not like the colour printed versions on the standard Humbrol colour chart. Also, a handy conversion chart which compares the equivalent Humbrol colour references with paints produced by Revell, Testors, Tamiya and Gunze Sangyo. The binder costs £9.99 and you can register with Humbrol for future news on the system and any new colour chips released by filling in a registration card which comes with the binder.

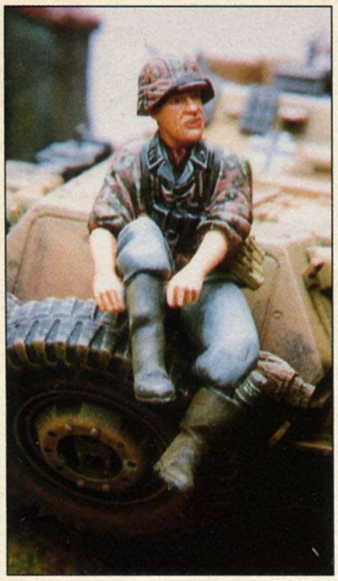
For some time now rumours have abounded that the very popular Metalcote Colours favoured by figure painters had been dropped from the range and we had some telephone calls to the editorial office from worried readers to this effect. I can confirm that 27001 Matt Aluminium, 27002 Polished Aluminium, 27003 Polished Steel and 27004 Gunmetal are still in the range, in addition to the standard metallic colours. Metalcote colours are applied in the normal way and when they are dry they can be buffed up to obtain a polished metal effect.

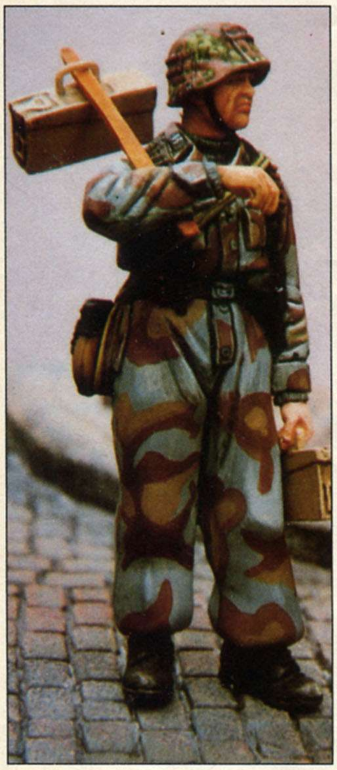
Look out for the new Colour System in the shops. If you're a fervent user of Humbrol paints and, no doubt, you'll have developed your own mixing system because military modellers are such excellent innovators, you'll probably want to get to grips with what's on offer. Humbrol have simply done what modellers have been doing for decades - mixed colours, but now the inexperienced and those brand new to modelling can use a system tailor made for everyone to use. If you need to know more about Humbrol products or have any questions about the new Colour System you can get it straight from the "horse's mouth" by telephoning them on 01482 701191 or send a fax to 01482 712908. For UK modellers they have a Freephone number 0800 132379.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Humbrol Ltd., Marfleet, Hull HU9 5NE.



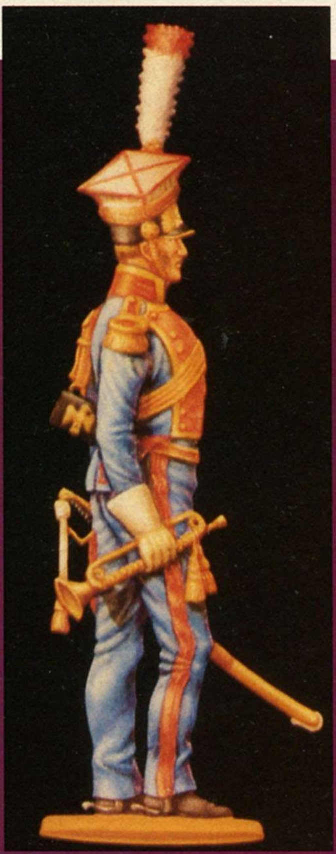


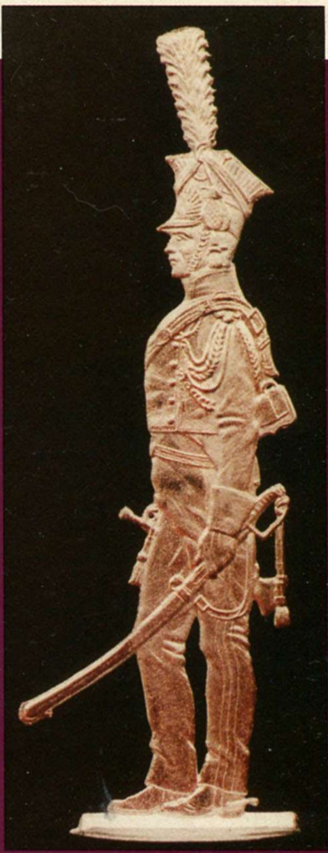
Quadri Concept

Quadri Concept is a range of larger scale flat figures, 70/75mm high, produced in France where they are engraved by D. Lepeltier to designs by Eugene Leliepvre, and available from Historex Agents of Dover. There are 16 items in the Quadri Concept range and all are French Army of the Napoleonic period. Engraved both sides, the figures are cast in good quality white metal, finely detailed for good colour demarcation.

Sent for review were QCLB13b a trumpeter in *tenue de route* with his horse and QCLB13c a single figure of a trumpeter in *tenue de service*, both are of *2e Regiment de Chevau-Legers Lanciers de la Garde 1812* - the 'Dutch Lancers'. A colourful choice, this pair, in their blue uniforms faced red. The trumpeter in service dress *(tenue de service)* has a tall plume to his lance cap and both sides of this figure are interesting, although the right side showing the trumpet will probably be the side favoured by painters who wish only to finish one side. QCLB13c costs £6 plus 50p p&p. This is a pity because the opposite side has a much more interesting side to the head and lance cap.

The trumpeter with his horse is dressed in campaign or marching order *(tenue de*



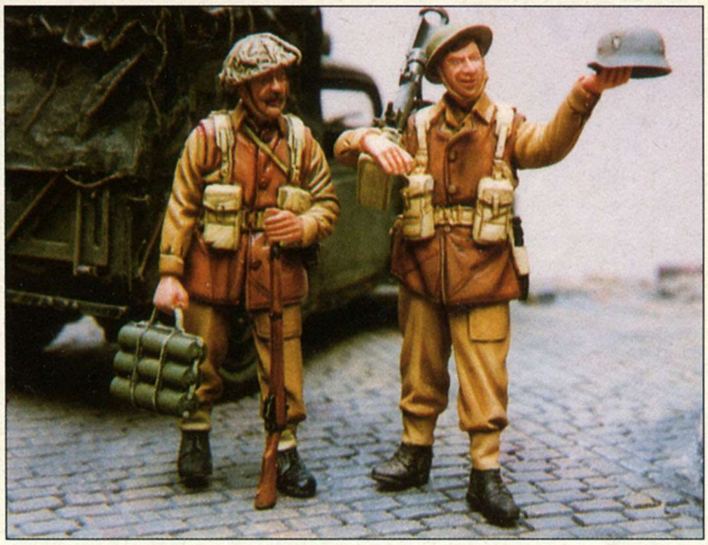


Wolf

The Wolf range of 1:35 scale WWII figure kits produced by Nic Adams is now quite a collection and is constantly being added to. They're stocked by Historex Agents of Dover who recently sent along three of the kits for review. The figures are very good quality, to exact 1:35 scale and cast in light grey polyurethane resin. Weapons are usually cast in white metal.

WAW 21 is a very 'different' study of an *SS* soldier pulling on his boot. He's seated and designed to be put onto a vehicle or alternatively sat on a box or rock, or some similar piece of scenery. The action of pulling on his boot is captured well and this gives the modeller something 'different' to choose from the many 'run of the mill' poses encountered. There's a stick grenade tucked down his other boot; this practice must have been very uncomfortable for the wearer and makes you wonder if it was something German soldiers did as a pose for the combat photographer's camera. It would be difficult to walk, let alone run, with such an object in the boot when you think what its like with a tiny stone in your shoe! This model could be finished as *Wehrmacht* with slight modifications rather than *SS* and would enhance any vehicle model.

WAW 22 is another *SS* soldier - a Grenadier of *12th SS Panzer Division* in Normandy 1944, a standing figure carrying 7.92mm machine-gun ammunition boxes. One box is carried over his right shoulder, its handle threaded onto a piece of wood - an act possibly copied from a photograph, but again, another impractical and uncomfortable way of carrying a box (unless it was empty) which could slide down the wood and smack against your spine! The impracticalities of a man carrying a such a load in this fashion would soon manifest themselves once he began to walk! I am aware that Roman legionaries carried their kit in this fashion but an ammo box is quite a different proposition to small pots and impedimenta and a bundle of clothing. Make sure you get the stick, the box and the figure's arm in accord with each other and the angles correct. Both cost £6.



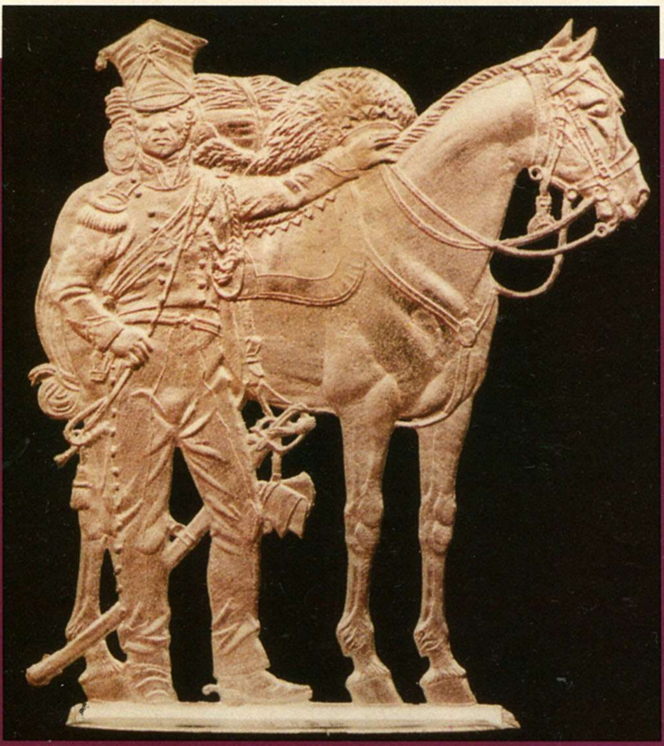
WRP03 has two figures in the kit which assemble into a British P.I.A.T. team of the No.1 with the P.I.A.T. over his shoulder and the No.2 with the bomb carriers. The P.I.A.T. (Projector Infantry Anti Tank) was a strangely configured weapon that fired a shaped charge anti-tank rocket bomb from a short launcher which used a terrifically strong spring to fire it, resulting in quite a heavy recoil. It wasn't a popular weapon, was difficult to cock the strong striker spring, but it could do some real damage to any tank or other vehicle that got within range. It was often used against bunkers and strong points

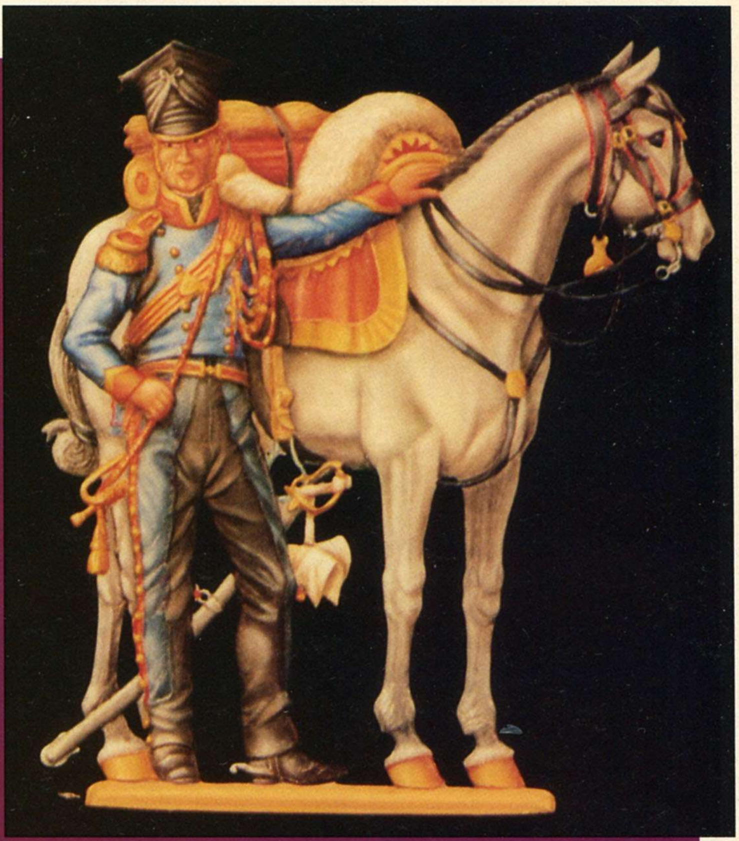
The No.1 is holding aloft a German helmet that presumably he has just found as his No.2 looks on. The facial expressions of the men are very good and they paint up a treat. The parts for the P.I.A.T. itself, the No.2's rifle and the bomb containers with his right hand cast onto the handle, and a single P.I.A.T. round are white metal parts. An excellent two-figure study, price £11.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ.

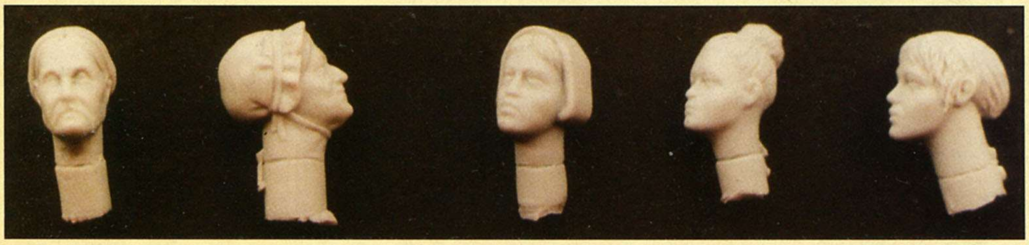


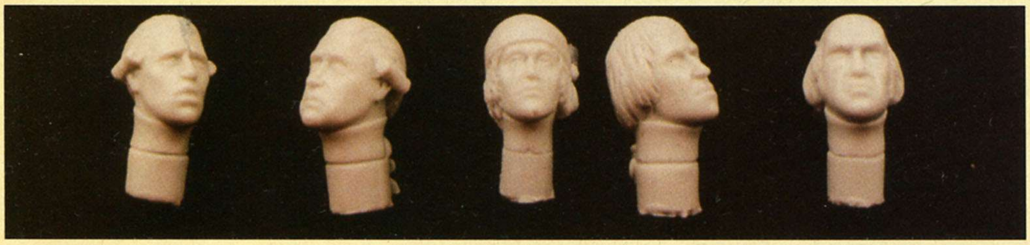


route) with his lance cap covered with oilskin and no plume fitted. He's slightly less colourful for this and he wears leather booted overalls. The horse can be painted as a trumpeter's traditional grey, so this comes over as quite an attractive piece once it's painted up. Price is £16 plus 50p p&p.

Painting instructions (in French) are included along with a colour photograph as a guide. Quadri Concept flat figures are available from Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ.
K.M.J.

Prices in text
Quadri Concept, 26 rue Montgolfier, 78360 Montesson, France.





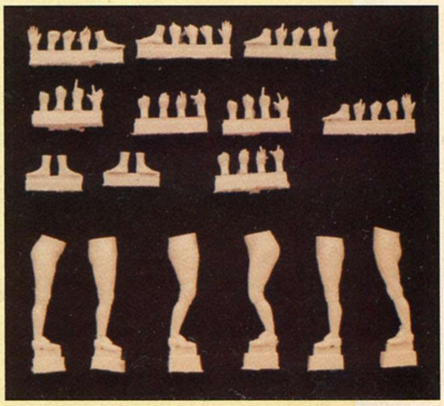
Historex

Historex of France are more normally associated with a vast range of 1:30 scale (usually referred to as 54mm) injection moulded plastic figure kits and accessories, although the Company also produces kits and accessories cast in polyurethane resin. There's also a range called Nemrod, produced by NCO Historex in France and this range of 54mm and 90mm resin kits and accessories has become quite sizeable and available from Historex Agents of Dover. I'd recommend obtaining a Nemrod list from Historex Agents because there are some pretty diverse and interesting subjects included. Send a SAE for details.

The Historex polyurethane resin castings are very good. The French have a knack for obtaining good quality resin castings and these are very good. I like the replacement heads they produce which are excellent for conversion work. In fact, from a selection of these resin spare parts and plastic spares you could build up a figure to your own design. However, just like you should adapt Historex plastic parts to make allowances for anatomy just don't stick the pieces together otherwise they will look wrong. Try some dry runs and cut and sand the parts until the model looks correct before reaching for the glue. Milliput for gap filling and adding clothing and details will complete the picture - why wait for the kit to come along for that figure you've always wanted? Have a go! You might surprise yourself.

Latest additions are 30371 three pairs of legs for *Tenue de Ville ou de Société* (knee breeches, stockings and shoes for court dress); 30372 16 pairs of hands and four pairs of bare feet; 30373 five assorted female heads; 30374 five assorted male heads, 'Ancient Regime'. The detail is quite exquisite and looking at these heads is like looking at the bell and wanting the bicycle! They are inspirational and engender ideas for model figures or, of course, can be used to convert. All are priced at £3.50 each plus 30p postage which isn't going to cause much damage to your pocket. There are another five spare head sets available in the range.
K.M.J.

Prices in text
Historex Resin Parts and Nemrod are available from Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ.



Verlinden Productions

April's releases from Verlinden Productions brought six new items in the 120mm Super Scale range, two in the 1:35 scale series and a 1:48 scale aircraft kit detail set for Hasegawa's F86-F30 Sabre, 1232 price £12.50 + 50p p&p.

Two knights Kit No.1230 the Black Prince c.1300 and No.1231 'Knight' c.1300 are available singly, but have been designed so they may be posed together as a fighting pair. Price of each kit is £19.95 + 50p p&p. They are beautifully cast with crisp detail in a light grey polyurethane resin that VP appear to have settled on for all new releases since their move to the United States. The Black Prince has an axe whereas the 'Knight' is armed with sword and shield - separately they seem to lack 'cohesion' so I suppose the intended pairing is the answer to lend them credence. However, you will have to produce your own base to take both models in 'combat mode' and discard the cast circular base supplied with each kit.

A Super Scale 120mm 'German Paratrooper in Jump Suit' is Kit No.1228, price £19.95 + 50p p&p. I like the pose, it's uncomplicated, straight up and down, but convincing nevertheless. He has both hands up to the left side of his chin presumably fastening his helmet straps. He wears the early parachute from which the *fallschirmjäger* seemed to dangle from on a single string and then land on all fours. The jump smock (euphemistically called the 'bone sack') has ribbed knee protectors and he wears side lacing boots. An MP 40 and ammunition pouches are supplied to put on the base, but I think the *fallschirmjäger* jumped with only a pistol for protection and rifles, SMGs and machine-guns were para-dropped in containers with them, but not attached to the men in any way. This is one of the reasons they got 'carved up' by long range Allied rifle fire trying to locate their weapons on the ground in the initial stages of the Crete campaign.

The American Civil War 'North and South' series banners appear on No.1226 a Super Scale 120mm Union Infantry Corporal 1863 (£19.95 + 50p p&p) and No.1234 is a useful accessory - a super model of a US Civil War period 12 Pounder Gun (Napoleon), price £43.95 post free. The figure kit of the Union Infantry Corporal comes with a choice of heads; one wearing a kepi and the other bareheaded with a bandage. He's posed in the act of taking a percussion cap from his pouch to prime his muzzle loading rifle and carries a full pack and rolled blanket on his back.

The 12 pounder gun is a complete kit comprising cast polyurethane resin, plastic card, metal chain and copper wire, etc., which assembles into a highly detailed miniature. (Hopefully, we'll get a crew

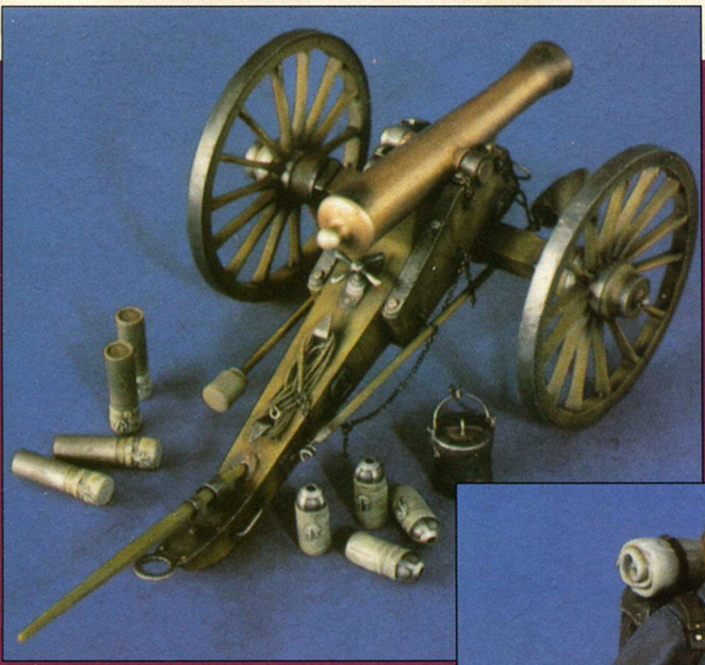
Millenium III

Albion Armouries are the exclusive outlet for a new range of Millenium III resin scenery. The range includes a 25mm castle range which features towers, gateways, corners, high walls and breaches, all supplied as self assembly kits.

Sent in for review were a length of standard wall, a standard corner and a tower. The standard wall (£6.50) measures 175mm long, with the outer wall being 82mm high and the inner 65mm high. The two 10mm wide walls are separated by a walkway which is 40mm wide and which fits into a locating groove cut into each wall at about 45mm from the 'ground'. Two arches are also supplied in the kit, to fit between the walls and support the walkway. The outer faces of the walls have clearly been built up in sections and it shows. One is rather put in mind of the 'Linka' system, where smaller cast sections were fixed together both horizontally and vertically to form a longer, higher item.

The standard corner measures 78mm on each of the two outer faces, 42mm on the inner. The walkway for this on the review sample was warped and would not fit into the locating groove, but it is understood that this can be remedied by soaking the offending part in hot water or playing a hair dryer on it. An upright corner in a larger stone pattern is supplied in the pack to conceal the 'V' of the corner, which is a good idea.

The tower pack (£10) consists of four wall sections, a walkway and four corners. When assembled, the tower is quite imposing, measuring some 134mm high and a 65 x 65mm square top. It will be found



later!). The wheels have to be built up with one-piece rims, hubs and the individual spokes supplied. A strip of plastic card is provided to make up a representation of the metal tyres on the wheel rims. Take your time with this model, it assembles, with care into a superb 120mm (1:15 scale miniature).

The second 'Bare Horse' kit in Super Scale 120mm is now available as kit 1233, price £17.95. The butting halves of the body, with legs in place, will need careful joining, sanding flat but don't take too much off, and filler around the join. It provides the wherewithal for a good start to making your first mounted figure in this scale. The horse is 'standing' with two hooves on the ground, head down ears back. Quite a good pose, nicely detailed, and ideal for building up the tack and rider onto. 'Bare' horses always look 'different' to those accoutred with saddle, bridle, etc., and it's worth trying some dry runs with paper patterns before you add what is necessary for your requirements.

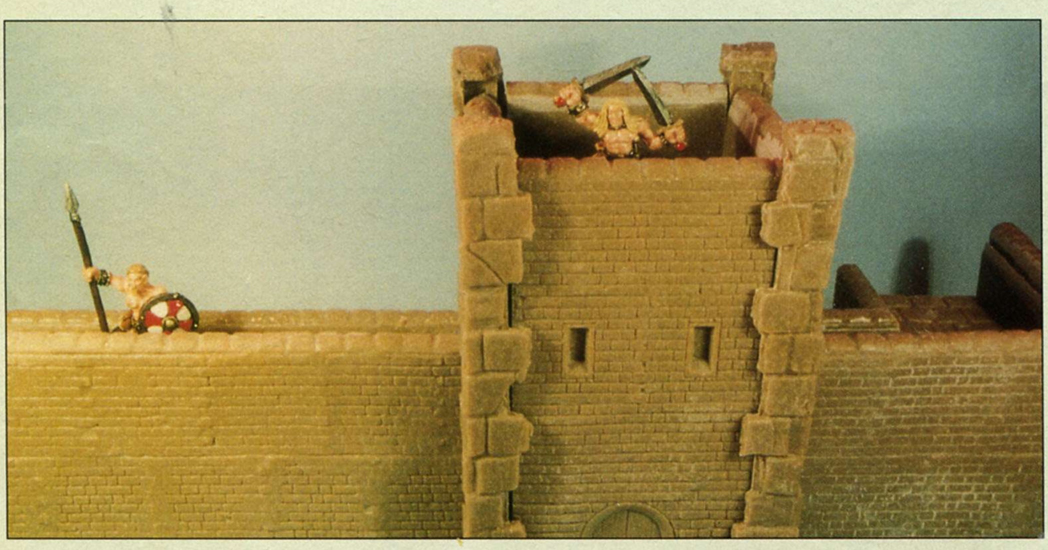
Two sets of two figure kits in the 1:35 scale range are 1227 *SS* Troops at Rest and 1229 'Take Five'. The former has two recumbent figures dressed in camouflage smocks and looking really relaxed. The title, 'Take Five' seems more American in concept than German, but in this box one figure is lying down propped up on his elbow whereas the other figure is standing next to him. This range of cast polyurethane resin figure kits is getting very large and there's lots of mileage in it as far as diorama modellers are concerned. Price of the two figure sets is £11 + 50p p&p.

Historex Agents of Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ import the Verlinden Range into the UK.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

The VLS Corporation, Lone Star Industrial Park, 811 Lone Star Drive, O'Fallon, MO 63366, USA.



useful if the four walls are also braced lower down, rather than just with the top walkway. A ground level door (one wall) and two higher windows (all four walls) are modelled on the walls.

The manufacturers recommend a two part epoxy adhesive for the permanent fixing of their products, but point out that the components have been designed to slot together so that they can be changed as required, without damage.

In all, this is a good range which should get better. The polyester resin is quite dense, but the corners representing larger stones appear brittle and the review samples had several broken 'stones'. This is not vital, but the packing - all the items are flat packed into a polythene bag with a header card - does not particularly lend itself to protection the components of each kit.

The company also produce ranges in 15mm, including fortification sets for all periods. A catalogue listing the company's full range - 15m and 25mm castles, Napoleonic forts, wooden stockades, earthworks, gabions and bastions is available for £1 (refundable on first order) plus an ssae. All the measurements quoted in this review are approximate.

S.A.A.

Prices in text

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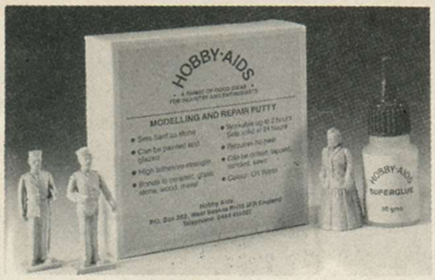

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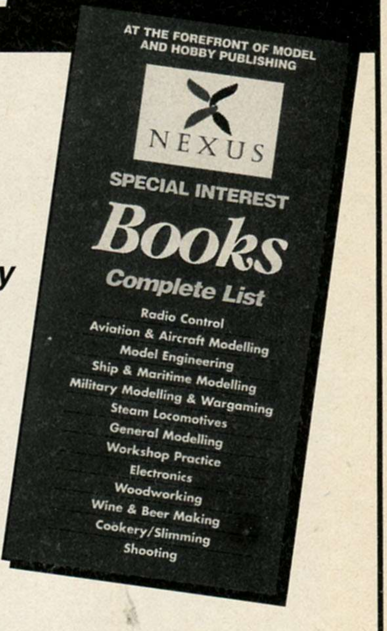
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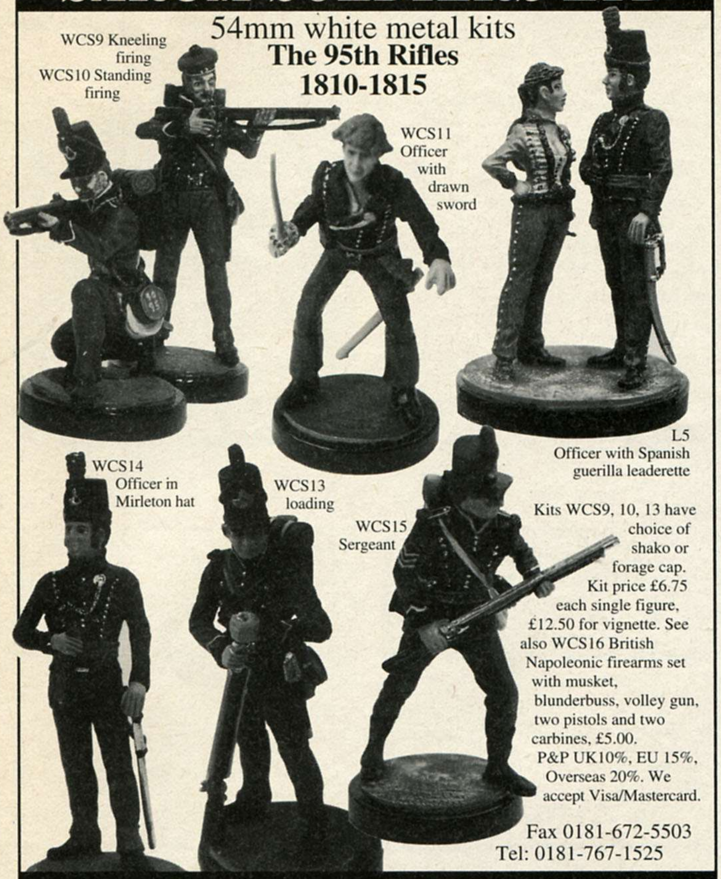
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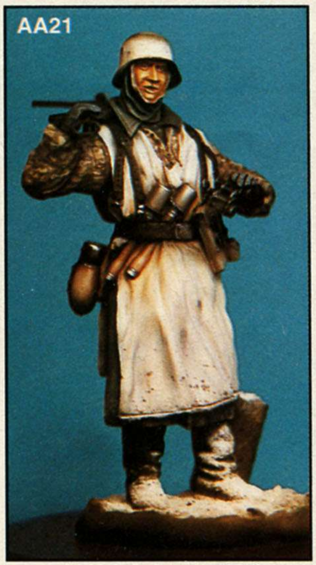

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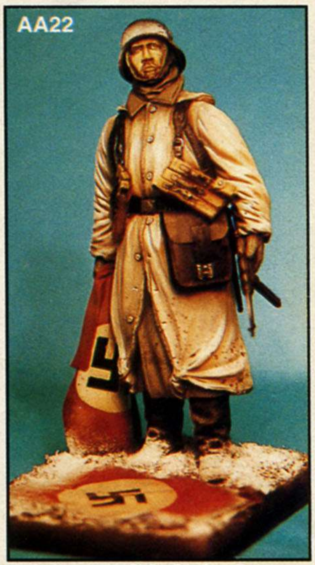

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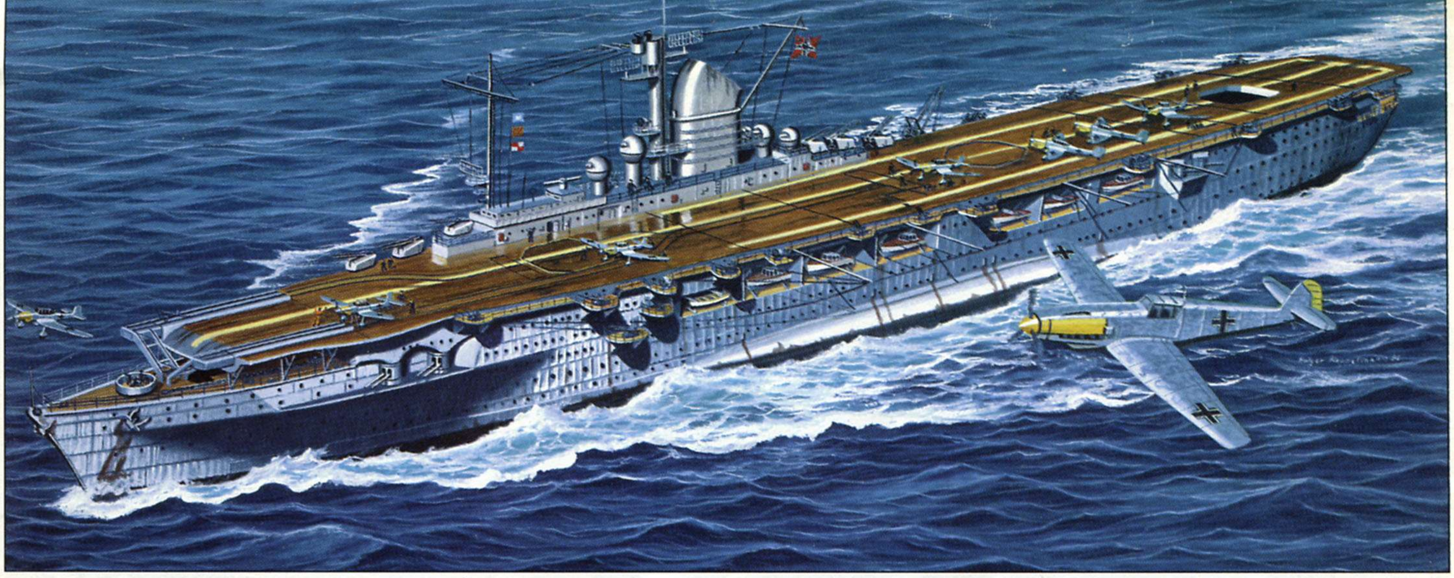

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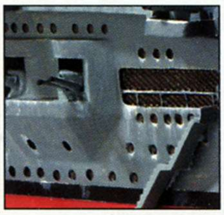

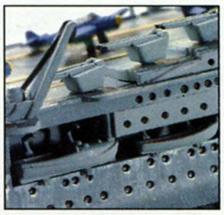

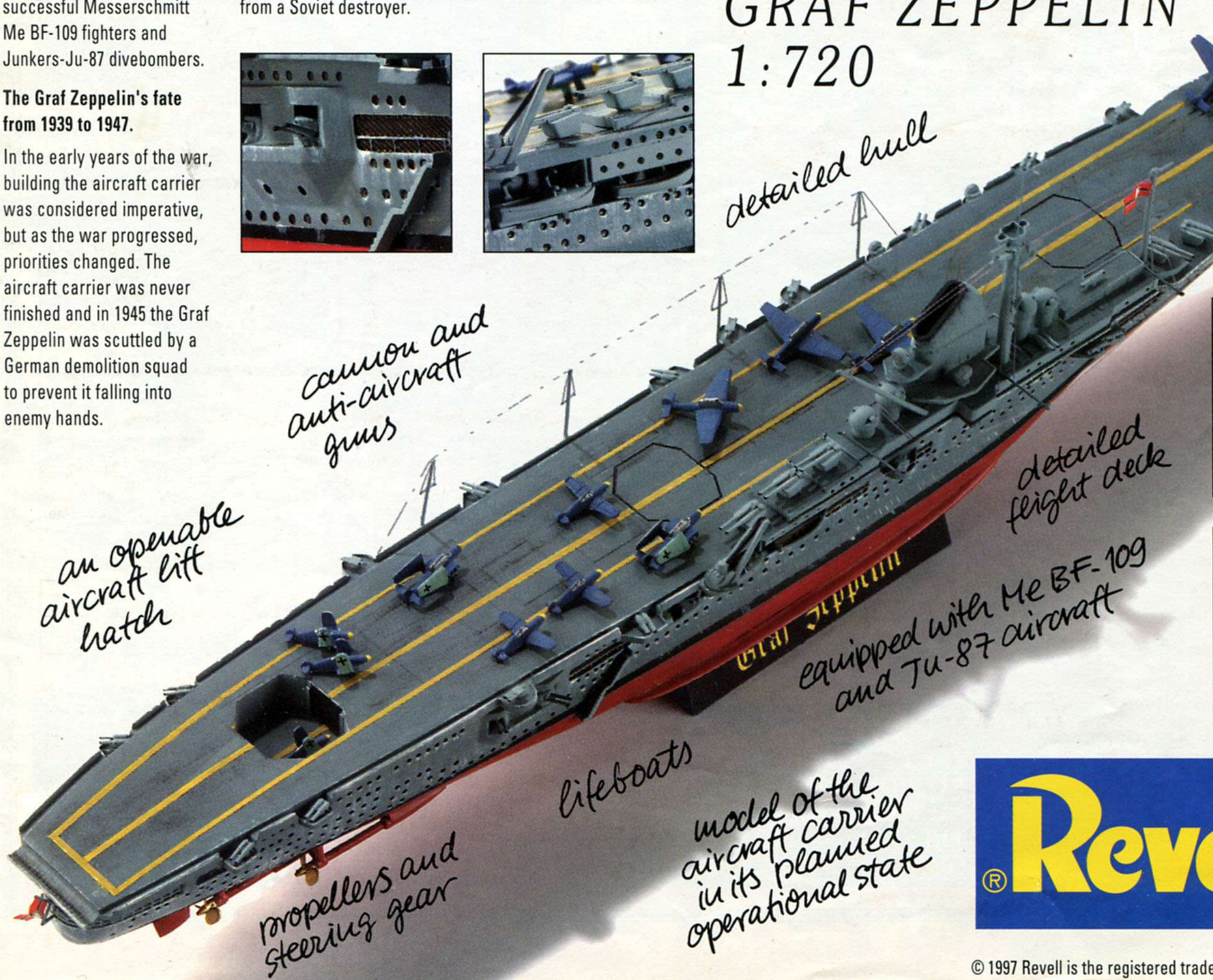
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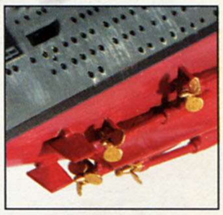

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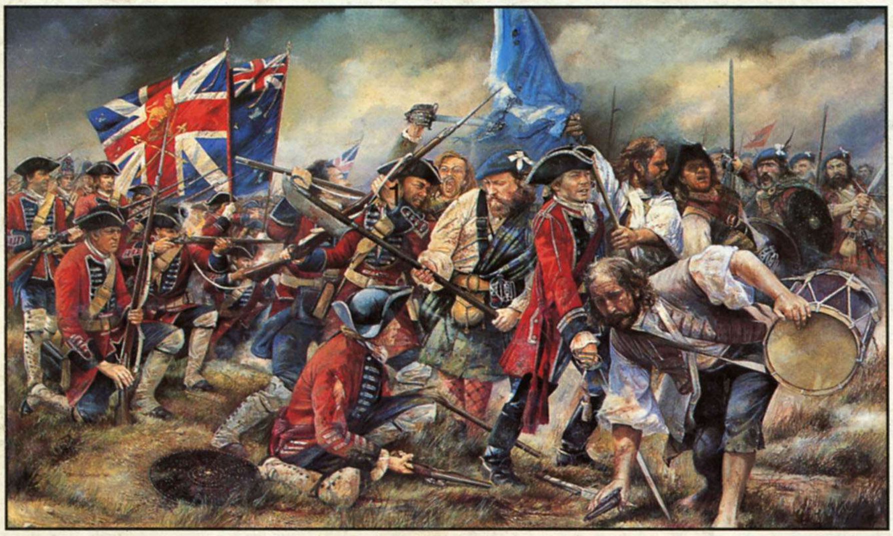
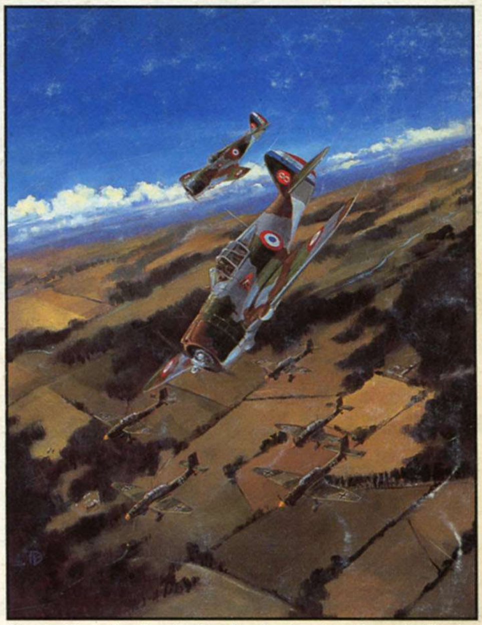


Broadsword Charge on Brown Bess by Chris Collingwood. 1,000 Signed and Numbered Limited Edition Prints depicting the Battle of Culloden 1746. Image size 25" x 15", price £56 ($100)



Czech-Mate by David Pentland, showing French Curtiss Hawk flown by Chech ace Pevina, France 1940. 1,000 signed prints. Image size 13" x 17", price £30 ($60)

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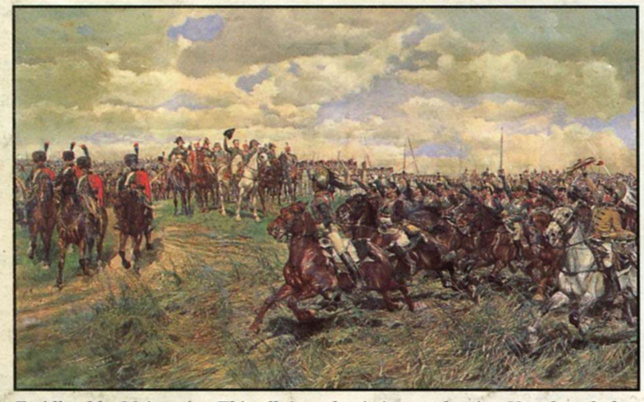
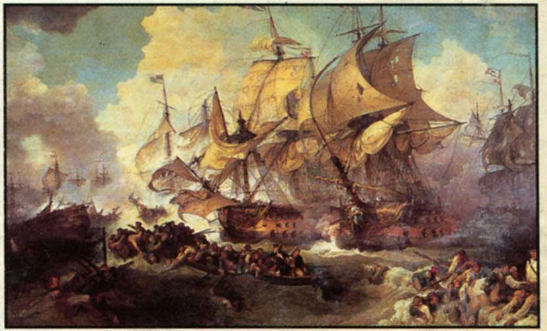
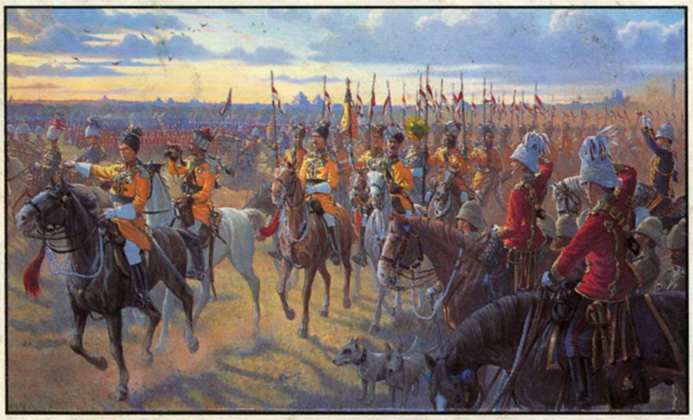


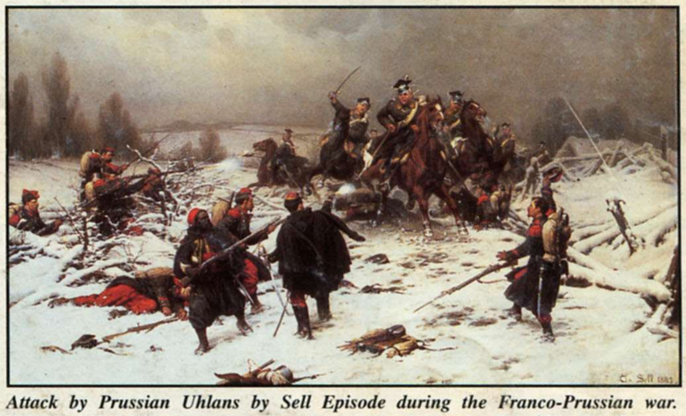
Freidland by Meissonier. This all time classic image showing Napoleon before the great battle. Image size 32" x 18", price £36 ($70). Small image 12" x 8", price £8 ($20).



Glorious 1st of June by Louthembourg. Restricted print run of 1,000 prints. Image size 24" x 16", price £25 ($50). Small image 12" x 8", price £8 ($20)



Sikander Sahibs Yellow Boys. Latest Limited Edition by Mark Churms showing Skinners Horse on Parade at Lucknow 1899. (1,150 signed prints). Image size 27" x 15", price £56 ($100). 50 Artist Proofs £80 ($150).



Attack by Prussian Uhlans by Sell Episode during the Franco-Prussian war. Restricted to 1,000 prints each. Image size 24" x 15", price £25 ($50). Small image 12' x 8", price £8 ($20)

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